The concept

The first Milano International Architectural Workshop was held at the School of Architecture and Society of Politecnico of Milan in from September 27th to October 2nd 2010. The initiative has been jointly promoted by a multidisciplinary group of colleagues involved in the Master of Science programs in Architecture and Urban Planning with the aim of marking the start of the academic year with an initiative which could exploit the potentials of a School which covers a broad range of design fields and has significantly invested in attracting a large crowd of international students. The intention, in face of the current constraints affecting the Italian public university, was to develop this international dimension, involving a selected group of innovative and qualified foreign colleagues as guest professors. They have worked as a sort of temporary Faculty staff with different competences and specializations, offering the chance to students anrolled in different educational programs to work together for a time in eight different workshops in groups of fifteen students each.

The concept in the launching of the Miaw program is to keep a focus on the city of Milano and to develop design explorations along the definition of a key word, to be identified and changed every year, and along a wish of working on the coupling of people and places. For the 2010 edition, the proposed key word was ‘re-appropriation’.

Every year the group of promoters will change, allowing to a large number and to a variety of colleagues with different profiles to be involved, witnessing the plurality of competences and backgrounds that characterize our school.

A key note lecture by Andrea Branzi and a contribution by the Dean of the School, Pier Carlo Palermo, opened the first edition of Miaw, while the final outcomes of the workshops were displayed in the exhibition hall of the School in the week following the workshop.

The theme

The theme selected for the first edition of Miaw workshops was ‘re-appropriation’. It has been interpreted as the set of physical and cultural processes by which a group reclaims – re-appropriation.