

DEPARTEMENT CULTUUR, JEUGD & MEDIA

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Flemish Culture Prizes
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ULTIMA 2016 ARCHITECTURE PAOLA VIGANÒ

The Italian Paola Viganò (born in 1961) is an architect and urbanist and a professor of urbanism and urban design. She is a full-time professor at Università IUAV di Venezia, a professor in urban theory and design at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), where she runs the Laboratoire d'Urbanisme (Urbanism Laboratory, also known as lab-U).

She graduated with an architecture degree in 1987, and in 1989 she became an assistant to Bernardo Secchi for urbanism disciplines at Università IUAV di Venezia. From 1991 to 1994 she worked on her doctorate in architecture at the IUAV, after which she became a doctor in architecture and urban composition research. Since 2004 she has chaired the scientific committee of the international doctoral seminars (U&U), organised by the same universities. In 2013 Paola Viganò was the first woman and first non-French national to receive the prestigious Grand Prix d'Urbanisme.

In 1990 she founded Studio Associato Secchi-Viganò together with Bernardo Secchi, with whom she won several international competitions. Together they examine issues and solutions for urbanism and the modern city in more depth. After the death of Bernardo Secchi in 2015 she founded Studio Paola Viganò. The studio now works on various projects of different scales in Europe.

Many projects won valuable prizes worldwide, including a whole series in Flanders. She shaped the renovation projects for Theaterplaats in Antwerp, the public space at the Lamot site in Mechelen, the design for Park Spoor Noord in Antwerp and the cemetery and Grote Markt in Kortrijk. In 2008 Secchi and Viganò were one of the 10 teams selected for the 'Grand Paris project'. In 2011-2013 they developed a vision for Brussels 2040, Lille 2030 and Montpellier 2040.

In 2015 Studio Paola Viganò won the international competition for the City of Science Quarter in Rome. The studio worked on the Blue Space for the cross-border Eurometropolis area (Lille-Doornik-Kortrijk) and on a city park at the nuclear research centre in Dessel.

In 2016 Paola Viganò was awarded an honorary degree by UCL (Louvain-la-Neuve).

<http://www.studiopaolavigano.eu/>