
PostDoc Position at the Institute for Sustainability, Architecture and Technology (ISAT) Academy of Architecture, Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI)

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and dynamic university, a hub of opportunities that welcomes the world. Students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged, and our researchers enjoy the freedom to pursue their initiatives within a supportive environment. Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, taking on new challenges while remaining committed to its core principles: quality, openness, and responsibility.

The newly established ISAT – Institute for Sustainability, Architecture and Technology, based at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio, is dedicated to exploring sustainable futures for the built environment. The institute focuses on rethinking construction through strategies that merge heritage and reuse, digital and material innovation, and structural design, fostering collaboration across disciplines and scales.

ISAT is guided by a Board of Directors with expertise spanning reuse strategies in architecture, heritage and repair, structural design, and digital fabrication and sustainability. It is led operationally by its director, with whom the successful candidate will work closely. As ISAT enters a formative and hands-on phase, it seeks a motivated and strategic postdoctoral researcher (80–100%) to support the development and implementation of the institute's structure, research agenda, and funding strategy.

This is a unique opportunity to help shape a growing research environment focused on advancing architectural sustainability through heritage, repair, materials, digital technologies, and systemic innovation.

Your Responsibilities

- Collaborate closely with the director and its board members to implement ISAT's research agenda
- Develop and coordinate grant applications and funding proposals
- Co-author academic publications and contribute to research dissemination
- Help build national and international research networks and partnerships
- If applicable, contribute to digital fabrication workflows or material research
- Support PhD supervision and mentoring

Your Profile

You are an innovative thinker with a strong affinity for design, architecture, technology, and sustainability, and you are eager to help shape a more responsible and forward-looking agenda in architecture and construction. You are passionate about your work, driven by a problem-solving mindset, and bring the following experience and qualities:

- A PhD in architecture in the area of e.g. heritage, material research, (digital) fabrication, sustainable design and engineering, or a related discipline.
- 5+ years of relevant experience, for example in heritage / reuse, digital fabrication or material-based research
- Familiarity with digital CAD tools, for LCA, Rhino, Grasshopper, and C++ is a plus, but not a prerequisite
- Structured, methodical, and strategical thinking and the ability to navigate complex problems
- Fluency in English; Italian is a strong plus

Contract Terms

- **Contract:** 12-month position at 80-100% (following a trial period of 3 month)
- **Start date:** September 2025
- **Workplace:** ISAT, Academy of Architecture, Mendrisio

The Applications

Applications may be submitted upon acceptance of the Applicant Personal Data Processing Notice found at the following **LINK**. In the online form, you will be asked to declare that you have read and understood our privacy policy.

To apply, submit a single PDF including:

- **Letter of motivation**
- **CV**, including:
 - Personal details (name, birthdate, etc.)
 - Education and work experience
 - Certificates (latest qualification)
 - Language and writing skills
 - Record of successful grants
 - Contact information for at least two references
 - **Research output list** (publications, exhibitions, awards, etc.)
 - **Brief highlights of your 3 most important projects**, explaining your role and the project's relevance
- **Portfolio:** showcasing academic research and/or practical work

Applications must be submitted ONLINE by filling out the form accessible through the following link: **APPLY**. You will also need to upload the documents listed above.

Requests for further information to Prof. Ena Lloret-Fritschi: ena.lloret.fritschi@usi.ch.

Applications received before August 31st, will be given priority. However, applications will be received until the position is filled.

USI strives to be an equal opportunity and family friendly employer and is further responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We guarantee that the selection process will give equal opportunities to female and male researchers.

As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interviews in **early September 2025**.