

RAGIONE SOCIALE / STUDENT ASSOCIATION

A non-profit and non-political association named "**Volta**" is established in Mendrisio pursuant to Article 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code.

Volta

is an open and inclusive platform for
discussion,
mutual help,
education,
and specifically identifies dialogue as a critical tool.

We envision architecture as a collective and communitarian field and aim to challenge individualistic paradigms by envisioning diverse collaborative networks.

PURPOSES

Volta

is a space for collective critical thinking within the academic and professional environment of architecture, born through the acknowledgment of gender disparity and persistent deficiency of female and non-binary representation among teachers and role models at the Accademia di Architettura, Mendrisio.

Volta

will create a welcoming environment at the Accademia for discussions on
parity,
gender,
race,
and individual physical and mental conditions,
which can be taken forward as a transversal debate at all levels of the Università della Svizzera Italiana's operations.

Volta

is an independent,
multicultural,
multiracial,
and multilingual association.

We aim to identify and address gender and racial inequality, intergenerational gap, and diversity, as well as fairness and transparency in hierarchy and power structures.

We see all these domains as intertwined and part of the broader concept of human and social sustainability, to be integrated and researched together with economic and environmental sustainability, to better tackle contemporary issues in all fields of academic and professional engagement.

The ambition of **Volta** is to establish a didactic and participatory relationship with the Accademia, acting as a conduit between students and staff to circulate,
information,
input,
constructive criticism,
positive feedback,
and tools to enrich even more our debate.

MEANS

Lectures, screenings, discussions, and workshops will be used as forms of reaching out to the wider academic community.

Volta has a regional, national, and international outlook.

Volta looks to collaborate with other architectural educational institutions and their organisations.

Volta sees the communication of this debate with other schools as an essential part of achieving broader meaningful change.

Volta is a non-profit association. All economic revenues are to be reinvested back into **Volta**.

STRUCTURE

MEMBERS

Volta is open to all students, assistants and collaborators of Università della Svizzera Italiana.

Volta is an Association that does not believe in hierarchies

We do not see the need for roles or preferences.

Anyone who is part of **Volta** has equal opportunity and right.

Volta is an Association that believes in the objective and non-preferential free flow of information.

Volta student year group representatives are responsible to actively engage and participate with the university administration.

Anyone can become a member of the Association. The Association is open to all those who share its values and express the desire to promote them.

You become a member of **Volta** through the act of registration which involves the communication of personal data.

The membership of the Association **Volta** is free.

The Association can also decree the exclusion of a member, as established in article 72 of the Swiss Civil Code.

The exclusion of a member can be actioned as a consequence of breaking the following **Volta** rules: disrespecting the code of ethics which guarantees respect for others; using any position, in any context as a form of influence; and lastly, the miss-direction of funds to causes not previously agreed upon with the committee.

ORGANISATION

The organisational structure of the association is as following:

General Assembly: Constituted by members.

Committee: Composed of student representatives, elected annually. (Minimum of 5 and maximum of 12 members).

President: Elected annually by the Committee.

Vice-President: Elected annually by the Committee.

Treasurer: Elected annually by the Committee.

All positions are reached by mutual agreement and no competitive election.

Agreed positions are necessary to facilitate the presence and integration of **Volta** into the Università della Svizzera Italiana's operations.

Importantly, they do not represent a hierarchy within the decision-making process of the Association itself.