



Born in Italy / Italian Citizenship
Office address: via Paolo G. Martini 26/d, 40134 Bologna, ITALY
E info@luisabravo.world | M +39 347 9684 273

EU Expert EX2019D350412
WoS Researcher ID K-9685-2019
Orcid orcid.org/0000-0003-4911-8002

CURRENT WORK

Free-lance Architectural Engineer, VAT/GST number: IT01746850443
BRAVO DESIGN, Owner and Director <http://www.bravodesign.it/>

City Space Architecture
www.cityspacearchitecture.org
Founder and President

The Journal of Public Space
www.journalpublicspace.org
Founder and Editor in Chief

Mastering Public Space
www.masteringpublicspace.org
Founder and Editor in Chief

Museo Spazio Pubblico
www.museospaziopubblico.it
Founder and Curator

Public Space Academy
www.publicspaceacademy.org
Founder and Director

Genius Saeculi
<http://www.genius-saeculi.com/>
Founder and Director

RESUME

Dr Luisa Bravo is a distinguished public space scholar, activist, and cultural entrepreneur with over two decades of academic and practical expertise. Her research and lectures have spanned more than 30 countries at leading universities, whilst contributing to major UN summits, such as Habitat III (2016) and the World Urban Forum (since 2018).

In 2013, she founded the non-profit City Space Architecture, launching pioneering initiatives including The Journal of Public Space, the Public Space Academy, and the Public Space Museum in Bologna, Italy. Her leadership has fostered strategic partnerships with UN-Habitat and the World Economic Forum's Davos Baukultur Alliance.

Through interdisciplinary work connecting academia, policy, and practice, Dr Bravo has emerged as a prominent advocate for public space culture and civic engagement via research, education, and global cooperation. She serves European and international institutions as an expert evaluator and advisor, contributing to programmes such as Horizon Europe, EIT Culture & Creativity, Fulbright Commission, European Prize for Urban Public Space, and has served as a consultant for global programmes like Safe and Sound Cities and the Global Platform for the Right to the City.

Her works have been exhibited at the Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism (South Korea, 2019), at the International Architecture Exhibition, Venice Biennale (Italy, 2021) and at the Biennale dello Stretto (Italy, 2024), where she curated the section on "Public Space / Relations".



www.luisabravo.world

FULL PROFILE

Architectural engineer (University of Bologna, 2001), cultural entrepreneur, public space researcher and passionate activist, Dr Luisa Bravo holds a PhD in Building and Territorial Engineering from University of Bologna (2008), with a thesis in Urban Design titled “Public versus private: the fickle search for a plan for the urban well-being”.

Adjunct Professor in Urban Design at the University of Florence (since 2013), Dr Bravo has developed post-doctoral research and teaching in many prestigious universities, including University of California Berkeley, IURD – Institute of Urban and Regional Development (USA), Queensland University of Technology, Faculty of Creative Industries, School of Design (Australia), KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places (Sweden), Lebanese American University, School of Architecture and Design (Lebanon); she has been the recipient of prestigious grants and awards, including the Marco Polo scholarship awarded by the University of Bologna and the Australia Endeavour Executive Award, fully funded by the Australian Government, Department of Education and Training. She has published extensively in Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese and has supervised and mentored Master’s and PhD students from various universities on an international level. She has been appointed as an external examiner for PhD theses at the following institutions: D’Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara (Italy), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain), Cardiff University (United Kingdom), Université de Paris (France), Queensland University of Technology (Australia), University of New South Wales (Australia).

She has served as keynote speaker in international conferences in more than 30 countries and she has actively participated in key UN summits, including [Habitat III](#), the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development in Quito (2016), several UN-Habitat’s World Urban Fora (Kuala Lumpur, 2018; Abu Dhabi, 2020; Katowice, 2022; Cairo, 2024; Baku, 2026), where she curated exhibitions and organized networking and training events; she was invited and accredited to attend the 26th Governing Council (Nairobi, 2017), the first UN-Habitat Assembly (Nairobi, 2019) and two High Level Meetings on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the UN headquarters in New York (2017, 2022). Her lecture ‘[Stand up for Public Space!](#)’ has been included in the UN-Habitat Global Urban Lectures series (2017), an initiative gathering expertise from renowned international scholars and professionals who excel in their fields.

In 2005 Dr Bravo founded the engineering and architectural firm [BRAVO DESIGN](#) in Bologna, where she currently works as a freelance.

In 2013 she founded [City Space Architecture](#), a non-profit cultural organization based in Bologna whose mission is to promote public space culture on a global scale, through projects of international cooperation. Under her leadership, City Space Architecture became a partner of UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and was included in the [United Nations General Assembly of Partners \(GAP\)](#), [Research and Academia Partner Constituent Group](#); became a member of the [Davos Baukultur Alliance of the World Economic Forum](#) and of GPN – Global Planners Network, an alliance of professional planning institutes focused on sustainable development. City Space Architecture is recognized as a research organization by the Research Organization Registry (ROR) with ID [00n1dbb71](#).

As President of City Space Architecture, Dr Bravo initiated and is currently leading several public space projects, such as: [The Journal of Public Space](#), the first, interdisciplinary, academic, diamond open access journal entirely dedicated to public space, developed in partnership with UN-Habitat; [Public Space Academy](#), the first, free, interdisciplinary educational program on public space, developed in partnership with Ove Arup Foundation; [Museo Spazio Pubblico](#) [Public Space Museum] a transdisciplinary practice hosted in a renovated neighborhood supermarket in the suburb of Bologna; the web-magazine [Mastering Public Space](#), an online and free resource with a curated collection of news on public space from influential sources, developed in collaboration with Global Cultural Districts Network (GCDN). With UN-Habitat she has also developed [Mapping Resilient Communities](#), a mapping research initiative on practices of social resilience related to public space, regarding the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr Bravo is the initiator and curator of the Film Festival [URBAN VISIONS. Beyond the Ideal City](#) which takes place in Bologna and of its twin in the United Arab Emirates [URBAN VISIONS. Architecture and the Future of Cities](#).

In 2019 she founded [Genius Saeculi](#), a for-profit company operating in the field of Digital Humanities, headquartered in Bologna.

Dr Bravo is a member of ISOCARP (International Society of City and Regional Planners)'s Scientific Committee, a member of AESOP (Association of European Schools of Planning) Thematic group Public Spaces and Urban Cultures, Board Member of Ecocity Builders (USA), Member of the Board of Experts for the European Prize for Urban Public Space promoted by the Centre for Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCCB), Member of the Scientific Committee of the Biennial of Public Space in Rome, and Expert Advisor for the Public Spaces Work Programme of the UIA – International Union of Architects.

She was also a consultant to the UN-Habitat Global Public Space Programme, she has participated in several Expert Group Meetings and has collaborated on UN thematic reports on public space and currently serves as European focal point for the UN-Habitat Global Public Space Network. In 2022, she was appointed as an external expert to the European Commission for the research project 'Public Spaces as Spaces for Citizen Engagement', promoted by the JRC Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy. She is also an expert evaluator for the European Commission for Horizon Europe, for the European COST project and for the Fulbright Commission (USA), an external evaluator for EIT Culture & Creativity, and she is a peer reviewer for several international scientific journals and for Routledge (Built Environment research). She is a member of the Scientific Committee of Col·lecció Polièdrica, a publishing initiative co-edited by Ediciones Asimétricas and the Politècnica Digital Initiative of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona.

She served as Project Leader of 'A-Place. Linking places through networked artistic practices', co-funded by the Creative Europe program of the European Union (2019-2023), as a consultant for the Global Platform for the Right to the City for which she wrote the thematic paper [Cities and Human Settlements with Quality Public Spaces](#) (2022), and as the academic coordinator of the research project Safe and Sound Cities developed in Ecuador, Colombia and Indonesia, funded by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation and managed by Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (2023-25).

In 2024, the Emilia-Romagna Regional Government appointed her as a consultant to develop methodologies for public-private negotiations in urban transformation projects, to maximise public interest and enhance compliance with Regional Law 24/2017.

Dr Bravo's works have been exhibited at the Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism (South Korea, 2019), at the International Architecture Exhibition, Venice Biennale (Italy, 2021), and at the Biennale dello Stretto (Italy, 2024), where she curated the section on "Public Space / Relations".

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (in English)

- Bravo, L. and Hermida, C. (2025). "Reclaiming Public Space: Youth, Safety, and the Right to the City in the Global South", *The Journal of Public Space*, 10(1), pp. 1–4. doi: 10.32891/jps.v10i1.1887.
- Bravo, L. (2025). "Who's Afraid of Public Space?". in Piccardo, E. (ed) *The Space is Public*. Busalla: plug_in. pp. 20-29.
- Bravo, L. (2023). "Public Space is a Fundamental Human Right". in Krebs, R. and Mayr, S. (eds.) *Future Public Spaces*, Berlin: Jovis, pp. 6-8.
- Bravo, L. and Crawford, M. (2023). "Publics and their spaces. Renewing urbanity in city and suburb". «Time + Architecture». (5), 62-67. DOI: 10.13717/j.cnki.ta.2023.05.062 (English and Chinese). Tongji University Press.
- Bravo, L., McCormick, M. and Hillary, F. (2022). "Art and Activism in Public Space". *The Journal of Public Space*, special issue, 7(3), 1–180.

- Lagrelus, H. J. and Bravo, L. (2022). "Universally Accessible Public Spaces for All". *The Journal of Public Space*, special issue, 7(2), 1–292.
- Bravo, L. (2022). "Investing in Human Capital. Towards a New Paradigm of Urban and Social Resilience, Beyond the Notion of Profit". in Carta, M., Perbellini, M.R., Lara-Hernandez, J. A. (eds.) *Resilient Communities and the Peccioli Charter*. pp.195-198. Cham: Springer.
- Bravo, L. (2022) "Cities and Human Settlements with Quality Public Spaces", Global Platform for the Right to the City, Barcelona, pp. 1-80 (English and Spanish). doi: 10.13140/RG.2.2.16971.30243.
- Bravo, L. (2020). "Public Space and the New Urban Agenda: fostering a human-centred approach for the future of our cities", in Mehta V., Palazzo, D, (eds.) *Companion to public space*, pp. 85-93. New York: Routledge.
- Bravo, L. (2020). "Transforming everyday public space. Human appropriations in search for citizenship and urban well-being". in Melis, A. and Lara Hernandez, A. (eds.) *Temporary Appropriation in Cities. Human Spatialisation in Public Spaces and Community Resilience*. pp. 237-244. Cham: Springer.
- Bravo, L. (2017). "Reporting from the Australian front. Public space as a social infrastructure", in Bologna, R. (ed.), *New Cities and Migration. An international debate*, DiDA Press, Dipartimento di Architettura, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Florence, pp. 185-196.
- Bravo, L. (2016). "Public life and urban humanities, beyond the ideal city" in Guaralda M., Clift E. and Mattes A. (eds.) *Filming the City. Urban documents, design practices & social criticism through the lens*, Intellect - The University of Chicago Press, pp. 205-221.
- Bravo, L., Garagnani, S. and Arteaga, J. (2016). "Understanding Intangible Cultural Landscapes: digital tools as a medium to explore the complexity of the urban space", co-authored with in *Parametricism vs Materialism: evolution of digital technologies for development*, 8th ASCAAD conference proceedings, SOAS University of London, pp. 431-436.
- Bravo, L. (2016). "Looking for the mall: public life in the city of dispersal", in Sanders, P., Guaralda, M. and Carroli, L. (eds.) *Urban Form at the Edge*, ISUF International Conference proceedings, Queensland University of Technology, School of Design, Australia, Vol. II, pp. 78-87.
- Garagnani, S., Madrigal, J. M. P. and Bravo, L. (2015). "The Lion's Gate and the Persian Wall in Byblos. Opening the Doors of Digital Representation to the Cultural Heritage of a Resilient City in Lebanon", in Digital Heritage 2015 Conference Proceedings, Vol. 2. IEEEExplore Digital Library, pp. 357-360, DOI: 10.1109/DigitalHeritage.2015.7413901.
- Bravo, L. (2014). "The urban design is dead. Long live the urban design!", in "Planum. The Journal of Urbanism", proceedings of the XVII National Conference SIU - Società italiana degli urbanisti, L'urbanistica italiana nel mondo. Prospettive internazionali, contributi e debiti culturali, Politecnico di Milano, Planum Publisher, Roma-Milano, pp.777-781.
- Bravo, L. (2013). "Open Spaces, Public Spaces, Publics, Open-minded Places", in «IN_BO. Ricerche e progetti per il territorio, la città e l'architettura», in Bravo, L. and Sgarbi, C. (eds.) *The public space of education*, special issue, 4(1), pp. 1-4.
- Bravo, L. and Garagnani, S. (2013). "The city as an extended network of public spaces: reconnecting the spirit of place and time through modeling of old realities and new virtualities", co-authored with Garagnani, S., Proceedings of the 7th conference of International Forum on Urbanism (IFoU), *Creative Renaissance*, October, 7-11, Cheng Kung University (NCKU), College of Planning and Design in Tainan (Taiwan), pp. 566-574.
- Bravo, L., Garagnani, S. and Magnani, M. (2012). "Cyberspace knowledge. Exploring urban dimension through multi-layered models in a digital domain", co-authored with *iCERi 2012. International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation*, Madrid, November 19-21, IATED, pp. 315-321.
- Bravo, L. (2012). "Public spaces and urban beauty. The pursuit of happiness in the contemporary European city", in Pinto da Silva, M. (ed.), *EURAU12 Porto | Espaço Público e Cidade Contemporânea: Actas do 6º European symposium on Research in Architecture and Urban design*, Porto, Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto (FAUP), 12-15 September.
- Bravo, L. (2010). "Genius loci and genius saeculi: a sustainable way to understand contemporary urban dynamics", 14th International Planning History Society (IPHS) conference proceedings, July 12-15, Istanbul, Turkey, *Urban Transformation: controversies, contrasts and challenges*, ITU - Urban and Environmental Planning and Research Center, Istanbul, Vol. II, pp. 543-554.