Overview
The University Suor Orsola Benincasa in Naples (UniSOB), offers a Master program in Architecture entitled “Building Beauty: Ecologic Design and Construction Process”. It proposes an integrated approach to: 1) direct hands-on construction; 2) low-carbon/low-tech building craftsmanship; 3) community empowerment. The proposed model process builds on Christopher Alexander’s principles, looking at building craftsmanship; 3) community empowerment. The proposed approach to: 1) direct hands-on construction; 2) low-carbon/low-tech Design and Construction Process”.

Learning Experience
The program is practice-based, offering an immersive experience of hands-on construction that links together self development, ecological thinking and building skills: students learn low-tech construction and decoration techniques over an intensive, fully human, feeling-based building process. Learning is organized in three axis: 1. Construction and Cultivation: full-scale replication of ancient building components/ornaments and a new project in University’s courtyard. In cooperation with UniSOB’s Mediterranean diet and botanic labs, cultivation of plants/food in the monastery gardens. 2. Seminars: leading international scholars from a wide range of scientific fields explore with students the potential of a truly interdisciplinary approach to design and construction where complexity and uncertainty are the positive condition of beauty generation; speakers tackle important challenges in the current international agenda of sustainable architecture and resilient communities. 3. Self, Community and Space: practical movement/art/dance/therapy workshops aimed at recognizing and trust our feelings in relation to space. Feelings are referred to space, the body-mind, and the way they interact in hands-on physical work of making.

The program also includes: a) intensive Summer School construction experience in Cisternino (Puglia), learning to build the traditional “trulli”; b) “Theory of Beauty Conference”: students present and discuss their experience with world leading scholars and professionals.

Entitlement to apply
The program is international, open to individuals holding a Bachelor degree or equivalent experience in Architecture or any other subject.

Qualification
Upon successful completion of the program, students will be awarded the “Building Beauty: Ecologic Design and Construction Process” First Level Specializing Master Diploma (60 ECTS credits, equivalent to 120 USA/UK credits). The title is accredited by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR).

Tuition Fees
EU students: €10,000 (full fee, including pre-enrolment and tuition).
Non-EU students: €16,300 (full fee, including pre-enrollment and tuition).

Registration
Registrations will be accepted starting in mid April 2017, following announcement on the website.

Students’ experience and location
The University sits in the heart of the city of Naples, housed in the extraordinary 17th century Benincasa monastery. The historical complex is located on the top of a hill behind the popular “Spanish Quarters” in the heart of the old city of Naples. The complex, which has grown in time into a walled “cittadella” (small town) enclosing courtyards, terraces, annexes, gardens, vineyards and cultivated land, offers a unique overview on the city of Naples and its renown gulf, crowned by the magnificent silhouette of the Vesuvio volcano. In such stunning venue, blessed by a magic Mediterranean climate, located at one-hour travel distance from major jewels of art and nature such as Rome, Capri, Sorrento, Amalfi, Pompei, Ercolano, to name just a few, staff and students share a one-year, intensive, memorable experience of studies, team work and life.

Accommodation
All students are offered accommodation in state-of-the-art University Residence, located only a few minutes walk from the monastery. The residence is panoramic; central location guarantees handy reach to a wealth of external opportunities.

Meals
Two diner/bars are available on campus, one of which is panoramic; central location guarantees handy reach to a wealth of external opportunities.
UniSOB is an important academic center in Southern Italy. Currently, the University is home of three Faculties: Education Sciences, Literature and Law, for about 9,000 students and staff. The overall area is around 33,000 m² sitting in the heart of the city of Naples. The complex is made of two large monasteries and two churches.