



[Full Portfolio](#)
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Paolo Cardini is currently Full Professor at RISD-Rhode Island School of Design and Director of the graduate program in Industrial Design. His previous appointment was within the interdisciplinary design graduate program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar. His work ranges from critical and speculative practices to design innovation and strategic planning. He studied Industrial design at Politecnico di Milano and Glasgow School of Art and he has been department chair for the bachelor and master courses in Industrial Design at Istituto Europeo di Design in Turin. He designs and consults for various international firms and he is lecturing in conferences and design schools worldwide contributing actively to the field with papers and publications.

SKILLS / MYBEST

20 years' experience in product & visual design practice

17 years in higher education

Solid business and academic management skills

Strong conceptual and formal design abilities in product, graphic & strategic design

Experienced in foresight, scenario development and innovation driven research

Extensive experience in global engagement and partnerships

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Ability to facilitate and present new ideas

Positive thinker

Expert traveler

Skilled chef

ACADEMICS / COURSES & ACADEMIC MENAGEMENT

RISD Rhode Island School of Design – Industrial Design I Providence, USA 2020/Present
Graduate Program Director / Faculty Coordinator

Brown University – MADE (Master of Art in Design Engineering) I Providence, USA 2023/Present

Università di Bologna – Advanced Design Unit I Bologna, Italy Apr-Jul 2022
3 months commitment as Visiting Researcher

Politecnico di Milano – Industrial Design dept. I Milan, Italy Jan-Dec 2021
1year commitment as Senior Resident Researcher

RISD Rhode Island School of Design – Industrial Design I Providence, USA 2020/Present
Promoted to the rank of Full Professor

RISD Rhode Island School of Design – Industrial Design I Providence, USA 2018/20
Director of the Industrial Design Graduate Program, Coordinator of the CAD curriculum

RISD Rhode Island School of Design – Industrial Design I Providence, USA 2018/20
Director of the Industrial Design Graduate Program

Centro University – Design for Tomorrow Master Program I Mexico City, MX 2017
Member of the advisory board

RISD Rhode Island School of Design – Industrial Design I Providence, USA 2014/15
Associate Professor, Coordinator for the Design Principles Curriculum (freshmen year)

RISD Rhode Island School of Design – Industrial Design I Providence, USA 2014 - 2020
Associate Professor, graduate & undergraduate studies, Industrial design program

VCUQ Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar – MFA Design I Doha, Qatar 2011 - 2014
Assistant Professor, graduate studies, Interdisciplinary design program

IED Istituto Europeo di Design – BA Industrial design I Turin 2005 – 2011
Department's Chair and Part-Time Professor

IED Istituto Europeo di Design – MA design for sport I Turin 2008 – 2011
Department's Chair and Part-Time Professor

Aside teaching foundational design courses including Thesis Studios, 3d Modelling, physical prototyping, design processes and research methodologies, in the last years I've crafted many new courses to be offered as electives. Some of the topics covered are: Critical Speculative Design, Open Design, Design and AI, Artificial intelligent for Healthcare, Decolonizing Design Principles, Prosthetic Aesthetics, Endemic & Endogenous design. For additional and details info about my teaching practice, please refer to my portfolio.

EDUCATION / GRASSROOTS & DIRTY HANDS

Politecnico di Milano – Laurea Magistralis in Industrial design I Milan 2003
1997/99 Bachelor degree in Industrial design
2000/02 Master of Science in Industrial Design/ Transportation Design

Glasgow School of Art – Product Design dept. – Exchange program I Glasgow 1999
Workshop with Droog Design I Glasgow 1999

Open LCA – Life Cycle Assessment Open-Source Software training I Berlin 2020

Rhode Island School of Design – Shoe Making training I Providence, US 2018

Virginia Commonwealth University – Physical Computing training I Doha 2013

EXPERIENCE / MAIN PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS

Tigeraire – Design Director 2021-23

Supervision and guidance for a startup developing innovative wearable ventilation systems.

Vinnova Futures Program – Mentor, Malmo, Sweden 2022

Government of Sweden initiative on Speculative Futures

Diid Journal issue 76 – Guest editor, Bologna, Italy, 2021/22

<https://www.diid.it/diid/index.php/diid/issue/view/diid76/diid-76>

From Anthropocene to Aerocene – Research Leader, Hyundai Motor Group, Seoul 2019-20

Research project on the future of mobility and urban flying vehicles

Mexican Futures Observatory – Project Manager, Universidad Centro, Mexico City 2018-20

Laboratory on hyper-contextual speculative practices.

Design Resurrection – Project Manager, Laboratorio para la ciudad, Mexico City 2018

Research project on Circular Economies and Open Design practices.

Global Futures Lab – Project Manager, Various Locations 2016-2018

Speculative Design Research Project on Non-Western Futures Perspectives

Design Catalyst Initiative – Project Manager and Product Designer, RI, USA 2016-2018

R&D on Diversification for composites manufacturers funded by the Department of Defense

Fake in Italy – R&D I Product Designer I Providence, USA/Florence, Carrara, Italy 2016

Design investigation on products' identity and cultural appropriation.

Nike – R&D – Research Leader I Providence/Portland, USA 2015

Design investigation on the topic "The Future of Skin".

Design Gang – Co-founder, CEO and project manager I Turin 2004 – 2011

Multidisciplinary design consultancy firm based in Turin, Italy.

E-pop for Casio / Product Designer I Milan 2010

Development of pop-up shops and exhibit modules based on Swedish Re-board technology for Enel & Brera Design District in Milan.

Contship Italia Group – Project Manager and Communication Designer I Milan 2009

Creative direction and development of brand communication strategy.

Canavese Connexion – Project Manager I Turin 2008

Innovation design driven & manufacturing development in northern Italy Industrial district.

Ferrino – Product Designer I Turin 2007

Design of a camping tent and sleeping bag based on the concept of Responsible Tourism.

Motorola / Pininfarina extra – Product Designer I Miami 2005

Nextel project - Mobile phones and IT devices Advanced design project.

FIAT – Product Designer I Turin 2005

Design a Fiat Grande Punto inspired chaise longue for the Milan Triennale.

Airplus silent – Product Design development I Turin 2004

Professional hair-drying system, user centered research and styling.

Lievore Altherr Molina – Junior Furniture Designer I Barcelona 2002

Furniture design, styling and engineering.

FUNDING / RESEARCH PROJECTS AND GRANTS

Past Fast-Forward – Principal investigator I Rhode Island 2022

Funded by RISD for \$3.600

Design from Within, a study for endogenous design processes through the lens of materials innovation – Principal investigator I Milan 2021

Funded by Politecnico di Milano for \$20.000

Global Future Lab Fellowship – Principal investigator I Rhode Island 2017

Funded by RISD for \$15.000

Design Catalyst – Principal investigator I Rhode Island 2016

Funded by USA Department of Defense for \$350.000

Fake in Italy – Principal investigator I Rhode Island 2016

Funded by RISD and VCUQ for \$15.000

Canavese Connexion – Principal investigator I Turin 2008

Funded by Italian Government for \$180.000

Open Design: A Natural Habitat – Principal investigator I Doha 2012

Funded by Virginia Commonwealth University for \$ 8.000

Made in Qatar – Principal investigator I Doha 2012

Funded by Virginia Commonwealth University for \$ 9.700

Everyone's Design – Principal investigator I Doha 2013

Funded by Virginia Commonwealth University for \$ 3.000

The Time Machine – Principal investigator I Doha 2013

Funded by Virginia Commonwealth University for \$ 2.000

Deglobalizer – Principal investigator I Doha 2014

Funded by Virginia Commonwealth University for \$ 8.000

ON-PAPER / SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & ARTICLES

Cardini. P., Wang I.; **ReFuturing: New prompts for new ecological visions**; Routledge Handbook of Sustainable Design 2nd Edition; Edited by Rachel Beth Egenhoefer; expected publishing date Jan 2024 [Read here](#)

Cardini P., Wang I.; **From Anthropocene, to Aerocene, through Biocene: A case study for critical reflections on the future of air mobility**; Design Research Journal Temes de Disseny #39 published by Elisava School of Design and Engineering Barcelona, Spain. <https://doi.org/10.46467/TdD39.2023.138-157> [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **From micro narratives to macro visions**; Pages 66-73; We Work, We Share, We Care; Media Evolution; Malmo; 2022. ISBN: 9789198738926 [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **Endogenesis**; pg.16; Diid disegno industrial industrial design No. 76; Bologna University Press; Bologna; 2022. ISBN: 9791254770979 [Read here](#)

Cardini P., Rognoli V.; **Design from Within, A Study for Endemic and Endogenous Design Processes**; Developments in Design Research and Practice II - Best Papers from the 11th Senses and Sensibility 2021: Designing Next Genera(c)tions; Springer; 2022. ISBN: 9783031322792 [Read here](#)

Cardini P., Paniagua K.; **Hyper-contextual Futures in Mexico City**; Cumulus Conference Proceedings; Rome; 2021. ISBN: 978-952-64-9004-5 [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **Global Futures Lab: Search for Hyper Contextual Futures**; Pages 514–530; Futures; Oxford University Press; 2020. ISBN: 9780198806820 [Read here](#)

Albani V., Cardini P.; **Global Proximity: case studies of international and interdisciplinary collaboration between the USA, Italy, Guyana and Japan**; Cumulus Conference Proceedings; Rome; 2021. ISBN: 978-952-64-9004-5 [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **Back from the future: how to deal with technological enthusiasm**; Ergonomics International Journal, 2(1); Medwin publishers; 2018. ISSN: 2577-2953 [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **Open Design: A journey through Doha, Havana and New York**; Q-Science Journal, Tasmeem Issue 1; Bloomsbury Publishing; 2014. ISSN: 2221-9048 [Read here](#)

Cardini P., Filippi A.; **Canavese Connexion, Design Industria e Innovazione**; Umberto Allemandi Publishing; Torino; 2008. ISBN 13: 9788842217091

Cardini P.; **Metafunctional-Metafictional Objects**; Critical Design Critical Futures, Art.7; RISD; Providence; 2015. [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **Il fascino dell'incompleto**; Bootleg. Interpretazioni non ufficiali della realtà, 32/50; Editori di Comunicazione; Milano; 2014 ISBN: 8891150347 [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **Openness in Design Education**; Educational Papers Archive; Industrial Designers Society of America; 2016. [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **Global Futures Lab: Search for Alternative Futures**; Core77; 2018. [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **How Local Influences Drive Design in The Digital Age**; Fast Company Design Magazine; New York; 2015. [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **The Case for a New Aesthetics**; VCUQ Interdisciplinary Design Symposium Proceedings; Doha; 2015. [Read here](#)

Cardini P.; **At Nike's place; Future Skin**; pages 6-13; Nike/RISD Inc. internal publication; 2015. [Read here](#)

LIVE / LECTURE TALKS & WORKSHOPS

Bogota' Design Festival – Keynote Speaker | Bogota', Colombia 2023

Talk title: Diseño entre tecnología e identidades culturales

Politecnico di Torino – Guest lecturer + workshop | Ivrea, Italy 2022

Talk title: Designing from within

Workshop title: G.Y.M. Growing Youthful Material sponsored by Huawei

Disrupting Geographies Conference – Keynote Speaker + workshop | Bologna, Italy 2022

Talk title: Designing from within

Workshop title: Stranger Wonder

Tasmeem Conference – Keynote Speaker + workshop | Doha, Qatar 2022

Talk title: Designing from within

Workshop title: Sanding around

Senses&Sensibilities Conference – Presenter | Bari, Italy 2021

Lecture title: Design from within, endemic and endogenous design processes

Jalisco Talent land Digital – Keynote Speaker | Remote 2021

Lecture title: Hyper-contextual Tools

Speculative Edu Conference – Presenter | Remote 2021

Talk title: Dreamt in Mexico, the case study

Tech Monterrey Mexico City – Guest Lecturer | Remote 2020

Lecture title: What to care about while designing

Johnson&Johnson research center – Guest Lecturer | Remote 2020

Lecture title: Re-designing Design

Yantze River Delta Exhibition – Keynote Speaker | Shanghai 2019

Lecture title: Why Design Must Be Critical

World Global Future Federation – Keynote Speaker | Mexico City 2019

Lectures title: A Search for Alternative Futures

Sandia National Laboratories – Guest Lecturer/Consultant | USA 2019

Lectures title: Listening to non-western perspectives

SIA China – Design Experts’ Tour, lectures & I Beijing/Chengdu/Shanghai, China 2019
Lectures title: Hichhacker’s Guide to Design

Free University of Bozen – Guest Lecturer I Bolzano, Italy 2019
Lecture title: Five Shades of Criticality

Pratt Institute – Guest Lecturer I NYC, USA 2018
Lecture title: Design in Context

Rhode Island College – Presenter I Providence 2018
Lecture title: Design Catalyst Experience

Viemeister Industries – Panelist/Organizer I NYC, USA, May 2018
Lecture title: Materials & Design

FabLab Impact/WeWork – Guest Lecturer I Mexico City, May 2018
Lecture title: Design Resurrection

Centro de Diseño, Cine y Televisión – Workshop + Lecture I Mexico City, Mexico, May 2018
Lecture title: Global Futures
Workshop title: Souvenirs from the Futures

RISD Museum – Gallery Talk I Providence Mar 2018
Lecture title: Fake in Italy

MAXXI Museum – Presenter I Rome, Italy, Mar 2017
Lecture title: The Global Futures Lab Experience
Workshop title: Souvenirs from the Futures

Parson, The New School – Guest Lecturer I NYC, Nov 2017
Lecture title: Fake in Italy

Universidad Francisco Marroquin – Guest Lecturer I Guatemala City, Oct 2017
Lecture title: Hyper-Contextual Design

Brown University – Guest Lecturer I Providence, Sept 2017
Lecture title: Beyond Design Thinking

Biennial Forma Conference – Keynote Speaker I Havana, Cuba, Jun 2017
Lecture title: The Pluriverse

Premier Conference – Lecture I San Francisco, USA 2017
Lecture title: Non-Western Futures

Pontificia Universidad Catolica – Workshop + Lecture I Lima, Peru 2017
Lecture title: Global Futures
Workshop title: Souvenirs from the Futures

Pune Design Festival – Keynote speaker I Pune, India 2017
Lecture title: The Pluriverse

NID_ National Institute of Design – Workshop + Lecture | Ahmedabad, India 2017
Lecture title: Global Futures
Workshop title: Souvenirs from the Futures

Isfahan Art University – Workshop + Lecture | Isfahan, Iran 2016
Lecture title: Global Futures
Workshop title: Souvenirs from the Futures

Booking.com Annual Meeting 2017 – Keynote speaker | Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2016
Lecture title: The Pluriverse

Hiko Mizuno College – Workshop Leader | Tokyo, Japan 2016
Lecture title: Design and everything else
Workshop title: Critical Hacking

SAP Startup Focus Event – Keynote speaker | Dubai, EAU 2016
Lecture title: Rise and fall of a brilliant Idea
Design Practices and Principles Conference – Presenter | Rio De Janeiro, Brazil 2016
Lecture title: How to deal with technological enthusiasm

Zokei University Lecture Series– Presenter | Tokyo, Japan 2015
Lecture title: Extranational Design

Shenzen University Design Forum – Presenter | Shenzen, China 2015
Lecture title: Design and Globalism

Rensselaer School of Architecture – Presenter | Troy, USA 2015
Lecture title: on Critical Design

Design and Manufacturing | The Next Generation of Making – Panelist | Providence 2015
DesignxRI, Chamber of Commerce initiative initiative

Critical Design / Critical Futures Symposium – Panelist | Providence 2015
Brown University + RISD initiative

University of Rhode Island – Lecture | South Kingstown | 2015
Lecture title: Art, Design, Engineer and Physical Computing

Better World by Design – Panelist | Brown University | Providence | 2015
Session Title: Critiquing Critical Practices

Design Conversations – Panelist | Providence 2015
Session title: " Sci-Fi to the Speculative "

Tool () Forum – panelist | Providence 2014
Session title: "Interfaces and Imagination"

ELIA Biennial Conference – Presenter | Glasgow 2014
Talk title: "Deglobalizer, from global to local"

The Circle of European Communicators conference – Keynote speaker | Rome 2014
Talk title: "The Beauty of the Unfinished"

Interdisciplinary Design Symposium Masheireb Enrichment Center – Presenter | Doha 2014

Talk title: "The Case for a New Aesthetic"

MATHAF Arab Museum of Modern Art – Presenter | Doha 2013

Talk title: "Designers, from problem solvers to problem makers"

DMY – Presenter | Berlin 2013

Speech title: "Design in Middle East"

Consapevolmente – Presenter | Italy 2013

Talk title: "Objects and us, awareness in everyday design"

Tasmeem Conference – Presenter | Doha 2013

Talk title: "Open Design: A Natural Habitat"

Katara Art Center – Presenter | Doha 2012

Speech title: "The Beauty of the Unfinished"

TED Global – Presenter | Edinburgh 2012

Talk title: "forget multitasking, try monotasking"

Aalto University – Visiting Professor | Helsinki 2012

Flaneuring Design workshop

Pratt Institute – Visiting Lecturer | Brooklyn NYC 2012

Seminar to Industrial design graduate students

World Maker Fair – Presenter | Hall of Science NYC 2012

Talk title: "Open design from Qatar to Cuba"

ISDI Istituto Superior de Diseno Industrial – Visiting Professor | Havana 2012

Open Design workshop

Politecnico di Torino - lecturer | Turin 2009

Strategic design and districts development.

Designation - presenter | Turin 2009

Be able to be, round table on Universal Design.

Design & Martini – lectures | Turin 2008

Series of lectures on design trends.

Politecnico di Milano - lecturer | Milan 2003

Urban scenarios and future city mobility.

ON-SHOW / EXHIBITIONS & DESIGN EVENTS

Abierto Mexicano, Museo Nacional de Arte, 2018, Mexico City, Mexico

Project: Design Resurrection

Faculty Biennial, RISD Museum 2018, Providence, NY, USA

Project: Fake in Italy

ICFF_ 2018, NY, USA

Project: Black Flamingo

1/9 Gallery_2018, Rome, Italy
Project: Global Futures Lab
Woods Gerry Gallery_2017, Providence, USA
Project: Global Futures Lab

Wanted Design, NYCxDDesign 2016, New York City, NY, USA
Project: Fake in Italy

RISD Faculty Biennial_2015, RISD Museum, Providence, RI, USA
Project: Perpetual Motion Machine

Katara Art Center_2015, Doha, Qatar
Project: Deglobalizer

Strange Wonders_2014, Msheireb Enrichment Center/ Doha
Project: Social Interactions – The Doha Rider

Q-pop_2014, Design Days Dubai/ Dubai
Project: Deglobalizer
Made in Qatar_2013, Tasmeeem / Doha
Project: The Circus Collection

Faculty Show_2013, Tasmeeem / Doha
Project: The Time Machine

East Modernism_2012, Design Days Dubai/ Dubai
Project: Middlefield & Not Renewable Oil Lamp

The Future in the Making_2012, Palazzo Clerici / Milan
Project: Gringo

Designersblock_2011, Milan Design Week
Project: I Like Sit

ADI Compasso d'Oro Awards_2011, Museo Macro/ Rome
Project: Canavese Connexion

L.O.V._2010, Vanchiglia Open Labs / Turin
Project: Touch Me

Piemonte Torino Design_2010, Palazzo della Regione/ Turin
Project: Open Up

To Be Eco_2010, Expo Casa/ Turin
Project: Neighborhood Design

Fuorisalone_2010, Zona Bovisa/ Milan
Project: E-Pop

Canavese Connexion Exhibition_2009, Palazzo Bricherasio/ Turin
Project: Canavese Connexion

Canavese Connexion Exhibition_2009, La Serra/ Ivrea
Project: Canavese Connexion

L.O.V._2009, Vanchiglia Open Labs / Turin
Project: Gang in Lov

FIAT showcase_2006, Triennale/ Milan
Project: Mr. Dot

DESIGN AWARDS / PRIZES AND COMPETITIONS

Core77 Design Awards – winner I 2020
Winner of the Speculative Design category with the project “Dreamt in Mexico”.

Core77 Design Award – honorable mention I 2020
Honorable mention for the Education Initiative category with the project “Dreamt in Mexico”.

Design for Death – shortlisted I 2013
International design contest on re-thinking the future of death care.

Autoprogettazione 2.0 – Winner I 2012
Open Designed Furniture for Fab Labs.

Autogrill Universal Design – 2nd place I 2010
Redesign of a fully accessible Parking Area.

Monaco Luxe Pack Design Award – honorable mention I 2006
Luxury water bottle design.

LANGUAGES / BLABLABLA

Italian – native language
English – w fluent I s fluent
Spanish – w fluent I s fluent

PORTFOLIO / FINALLY SOME PICTURES 😊

You can download my full portfolio [here](#) or at <http://www.paolocardini.com>

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