MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

FOR A

COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

BETWEEN

ACCADEMIA DI ARCHITETTURA

OF

UNIVERSITÀ DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA

AND

THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN STUDIES

OF

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

AND STATE UNIVERSITY

September 25th, 2003
This exchange program agreement between the Accademia di Architettura, Universita della Svizzera Italiana, Canton of Ticino, Switzerland, and the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS), Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI & SU) Blacksburg, Virginia, U.S.A. shall be implemented in the following way:

WITNESSETH

1. The students participating in the exchange program under the terms of this Agreement shall be selected initially by their home institution on the basis of information provided by the participating parties. However, final admission decisions in each case shall be the responsibility of the host institution and shall reflect both criteria of academic quality and the availability of supervisory faculty.

Students and faculty involved with CAUS academic programs at the Virginia Tech Center for European Studies and Architecture and students and faculty at the Accademia di Architettura will be encouraged to participate in relevant programs at each institution. Each party anticipates that this exchange agreement will provide opportunities for each participating institution to augment its existing programs and offerings in ways that redound to the benefit of each.

Each participant agrees to seek to assure, whenever possible, that faculty and students with appropriate language facility will participate in faculty and student exchange programs at the host institution in Blacksburg and at the host institution in Mendrisio, Switzerland. For Accademia di Architettura participants this implies a facility in English while for CAUS faculty and students, this implies a facility in Italian. Following the spirit of the original agreement between the two institutions, formal test scores of language proficiency are not required for participants from either institution.

2. Each year up to three (3) students from CAUS and three (3) students from the Accademia di Architettura may be enrolled in an academic program at their partner institution.

3. The number of participating students from either or both institutions may be modified by mutual written agreement. However, in any case, the parties agree to seek to balance the number of participants in the program between the participating institutions such that equivalent numbers of students from each university participate in the exchange program over time.

4. The period of enrollment of participating students in the host institution normally shall be one academic semester (14/15 weeks). Program participants shall be expected to be enrolled
full time at their host institution and shall be considered guest students (non-degree students).

5. Students from CAUS and the Accademia di Architettura shall each pay his or her regular tuition and fees to the home institution and will receive these benefits in turn from the host institution.

6. The field of study for each student participating in the exchange program must be such that the host institution can appoint a qualified supervisor and provide an appropriate course of study.

7. Pursuant to Item 1 above, participating students and faculty shall possess sufficient language proficiency, as determined by the host institution, to follow lectures and/or carry out research work at the host institution. Foreign language immersion programs will be offered as necessary at each institution to facilitate this agreement. At Virginia Tech, English as a Second Language is offered via a Continuing Education course. The Accademia di Architettura offers the same course in Italian as a Second Language. These courses must be paid for separately by participating students.

8. Both parties agree to provide documentation of course work completed by participating students at the host institution upon request by their home institution.

9. All housing and meal costs will be the responsibility of the exchange student. The host institution agrees to provide all necessary assistance in arranging accommodation in the residence halls or on campus, as appropriate. All travel costs will be the responsibility of the individual student. Miscellaneous fees accessed at the visiting institution such as for special course, fieldwork courses, key deposits, books, etc. will be paid directly by each student as required. Participating students shall be expected to furnish proof of adequate health insurance coverage for their stay.

10. Each institution will provide its counterpart with appropriate academic information on the performance of students attending its programs under this agreement. Further, each institution agrees to provide appropriate academic advising to participating students.
11. The Dean of CAUS and an appropriate designee at the Accademia di Architettura shall appoint a faculty member to serve as the local representative for efforts undertaken under this agreement. These representatives shall be the first point of contact in any emergency or to address other matters pertaining to students enrolled under this Agreement. These representatives shall cooperate as appropriate with the host institution on the advising of home institution students and in the evaluation of the quality of work of home university students.

12. This agreement is subject to review by the participating parties five (5) years from its signature. At that time, the parties may either modify it as mutually appears necessary, renew it without change or agree mutually to discontinue it.

[Signature]

Dr. Paul L. Knox
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Urban Studies, Virginia Polytechnic
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