

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE NEW MO-53 EDUCATIONAL BUILDING AT UNIMORE'S "ENZO FERRARI" ENGINEERING CAMPUS

Designed by Politecnica Building for Humans and OBR Open Building Research, the building will house five classrooms with a total capacity of 1,100 seats and will offer modern spaces for teaching. The project, funded with €10.1 million, involves public and private funds and responds to growing demand for education.

Modena, March 27, 2025 – Construction has begun on the **new MO-53 teaching building**, a strategic project intended to significantly enhance the educational offerings and the quality of teaching spaces within the Modena campus.

The official groundbreaking ceremony for the new building was attended by Unimore's Rector, **Prof. Carlo Adolfo Porro**; **Dr. Vincenzo Colla**, Vice President of the Emilia-Romagna Region with responsibility for the University; the University's General Director, **Luca Chiantore**; Prof. **Paolo Tartarini**, Unimore's Delegate for Construction, Prof. **Francesco Leali**, Director of the "Enzo Ferrari" Department of Engineering, Eng. **Stefano Savoia**, Head of Unimore's Technical Department, and the President of Politecnica, **Francesca Federzoni**. A discussion that provided an opportunity to present in detail a **project that meets the University's growth needs** and is part of a broader **infrastructure redevelopment** plan.

A NEW SPACE FOR TEACHING

The project was developed by **Politecnica Building for Humans** and **OBR**, led by architects **Paolo Brescia** and **Tommaso Principi**, and involves the construction of a **building that will integrate into the Engineering Campus** to meet a constantly growing demand for education. The MO-53 pavilion will house **five new classrooms**, distributed across multiple levels, for a total of **1,100 seats**. This new structure will improve the quality of teaching and make the organization of spaces available to students and faculty more functional. The building will be used for both **engineering courses** and those of **the medical departments**.

The project stems from a design that combines functionality and aesthetics through a **new volume in architectural dialogue with the adjacent building**, respecting its proportions and visual impact. The façade will feature **vertical aluminum sunshades**, a contemporary reinterpretation of the pilaster system already present in the context. Inside, the layout of the spaces maximizes usability: **the ground floor will house a 300-seat lecture hall** overlooking the covered plaza, designed as a gathering space and a connection point with the rest of the campus. The first floor will feature a **300-seat lecture hall** and another with **200 seats**, while the second floor will house **two lecture halls, each with 150 seats**, as well as **study areas** and a **terrace** dedicated to **relaxation and work**.

The layout is organized around a **central double-height core**, housing the staircases and elevators, to ensure smooth circulation accessible to all. Among the project's distinctive features are the **outdoor loggias**, conceived as spaces connecting the interior and exterior and designed to foster social interaction among students. An ascending path ideally connects the covered plaza to the large upper terrace, with a sequence of spaces that accompanies the progression of teaching and study activities in an increasingly open layout toward the outdoor environment.

A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF UNIMORE

The project, with a **total value of €10.1 million**, is funded through a combination of public and private funds. The **Ministry of Universities and Research** has allocated **€4.7 million** to the project, the **Emilia-Romagna**

Region has contributed **€4 million**, while an additional **€800,000** comes from **Confindustria Emilia**, thanks to the support of businesses in the Bologna, Ferrara, and Modena areas.

The allocated resources are part of a broader **investment plan for university construction**, aimed at strengthening the infrastructure of local universities and ensuring adequate space for the expansion of educational offerings. The importance of this initiative was emphasized during the press conference, where it was highlighted that **the adaptation and expansion of teaching spaces represent a priority for Unimore**, in a context where the demand for university education is constantly increasing.

TIMELINE AND PROGRESS OF THE WORK

The official start of construction marks the first step toward the completion of a project destined to transform the layout of the “Enzo Ferrari” Engineering Campus. **The schedule calls for 510 days of work**, with the building set to be completed by **mid-2026**. The execution of the work has been entrusted to **ITI Impresa Generale Spa** of Modena and will be coordinated by the same group that handled the design phase.

The construction plan has been designed to ensure compliance with the scheduled timeline and quality standards, with a phased approach that will allow **construction to proceed without interfering with existing activities on campus**.

The building will be equipped with **state-of-the-art systems**, with a particular focus on **environmental sustainability** and **energy efficiency**. The use of **innovative materials** and **advanced technologies** will reduce energy consumption and improve the building’s thermal and acoustic efficiency.

“Politecnica is proud to contribute to the growth of Unimore and Modena, our city, with a project that represents not only a new space for teaching but also a place of inspiration for those who will experience it as students. We have put our international expertise in integrated design at the service of the Modena area with the hope that this building will become a place of learning, capable of stimulating curiosity and innovation in the younger generations,” said **Francesca Federzoni, President of Politecnica Building for Humans**.

“This new building dedicated to teaching,” emphasized **Unimore Rector Carlo Adolfo Porro**, *“translates into architecture the idea of a university that fulfills a civic function as well as an academic one, and represents another important step in the redevelopment and expansion of the Engineering Campus.”* *The project introduces spaces that guide, welcome, and give form to knowledge, placing the quality of the learning environment at the center. The sequence of spaces, the clear layout, and the attention to light and materials enhance the educational experience. This building combines functionality, sustainability, and a focus on students’ daily lives. I would like to thank the Ministry of University and Research, the Emilia-Romagna Region, and Confindustria Emilia Area Centro for believing in this project, as well as the Technical Department and all those who, with great professionalism, carried out the design, coordination, and construction phases.”*

“The Emilia-Romagna Region,” comments **Vincenzo Colla, Vice President of the Regional Council**, *“continues to invest in education and knowledge, fostering collaboration among institutions and stakeholders. This is money well spent because, in this case, it will help expand facilities and, with them, educational opportunities for young people. We are talking about a campus of international standing, located in a large area with an industrial heritage, which will be able to attract students to STEM education. Furthermore, it will be a sustainable building, designed energy efficiency, which will create more welcoming and suitable spaces, recognizing that the functionality and beauty of the spaces contribute to a better dissemination of knowledge and improved learning.”*

“The project,” emphasizes **Unimore’s General Director, Luca Chiantore**, *“represents a significant expansion and qualitative improvement of the spaces available for teaching at the Modena Engineering Campus. It is part of a broader initiative encompassing other projects on campus, namely the*

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completion of the building dedicated to artificial intelligence, the energy retrofit project and installation of photovoltaic panels, and the renovation of research laboratories and outdoor spaces available to students and faculty. The strategy adopted will lead to a strengthening of the university's infrastructure, an enabling factor for enhancing the university's missions—teaching, research, and its third mission—and a key factor in attracting future students. Thanks go to the Technical Department, the designers, and everyone who worked to ensure we are on schedule and ready for this moment."

*"The start of construction on the new MO-53 teaching building," states Prof. **Paolo Tartarini**, the Rector's Delegate for Energy Issues and Construction, "represents a great source of satisfaction from two perspectives: that of synergies between public and private institutions, and that of the University's building and energy planning. In both cases, the principles of sustainability and usability formed the basis of the design agreed upon by all stakeholders. The expansion of teaching and research spaces at Unimore, not limited to MO-53 but extending to various other projects between Modena and Reggio Emilia, is part of a framework of collaboration between the university and local authorities—primarily the Emilia-Romagna Region—aimed at the University's growth within the region but above all at the education of young people, who play a fundamental role in the region's development. From this perspective, the prevailing sentiments today are those of pride and satisfaction in doing the right thing."*

*"The Department's goal in enhancing the new spaces," says **Francesco Leali**, Director of DIF, "is to increasingly place students at the center of an educational journey that leads them to frequent the departmental campus. The modern classrooms currently under construction, which will complete the existing facilities of classrooms and laboratories for teaching and research, together with the new indoor and outdoor spaces, are essential so that students can share experiences and ideas with one another and engage critically with the faculty and the research community. We are strategically convinced that full and genuine participation in university life, through the circulation of knowledge and the free exchange of ideas, is the best way to ensure the training of professionals, the leadership class, and, above all, the citizens of the future."*

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Politecnica "Building for Humans" is one of Italy's leading integrated design firms—specializing in architecture, engineering, and urban planning. As an independent firm, it is owned by 46 partners, engineers, and architects who have completed projects in over 50 countries worldwide, with an annual turnover of approximately 29 million euros (2023). It has four offices in Italy—in Modena, Milan, Florence, and Rome—and an international presence in 10 countries across 3 continents (Angola, Belize, Denmark, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Kenya, Romania, Sierra Leone, and Equatorial Guinea). Politecnica develops projects in the public and private sectors, in education and healthcare, in industry, in services, and in infrastructure; through its international division, it has carried out civil and infrastructure works in numerous developing countries as part of projects funded by international donors. With over 300 staff members, including designers, planners, engineers, consultants, and specialized technicians, Politecnica integrates diverse expertise—from plant engineering to urban planning, and from structural to architectural design—through teamwork and the complementary nature of its professional skills.

Politecnica places the well-being of communities and individuals at the center of its work, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the UN 2030 Agenda, ratified by 193 countries worldwide. Politecnica is committed to creating infrastructure that more easily connects people and communities, fostering exchange and relationships; inclusive and safe public buildings that facilitate social interaction; technologically innovative and healthcare facilities for patients; and educational buildings that promote social interaction and exchange.

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