



15. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura
Partecipazioni Nazionali

#This

Is A

Greek Pavilion
Biennale Architettura 2016

Co-op

Athens,
April 28th, 2016

The Greek *reporting from the front* reflects a collective attempt to integrate responses from multiple *fronts* of diverse crises that the society, the economy, space, spatial planning, the architectural profession and the standard of living are undergoing in today's Greece. Space (public, communal, private) and its planning systematically provide fertile ground for scientific investigation, social struggle and collective claims.

The Association of Greek Architects is appointed for the first time as the Curator of the Greek national participation, signaling the intention of a wider, vibrant, interactive, collective and participatory representation. The exhibition aims to concentrate, merge and highlight experiences, reports and traces of numerous, larger or smaller, *fronts* in daily life.

The Greek national participation in the Biennale Architettura 2016 comprises an inspired cooperative effort. A new participatory planning process emerges and redefines the role of architecture as a collective work in response to constant struggle of everyday life for social consensus and justice.

The vivid dialogue among (more than one hundred) architects - members of the cooperative- introduces an innovative and creative invitation that challenges both the role of architecture and the architect-reporter who covers the upshots right from the locus of crisis, while is still acting, struggling and putting forward new claims.

Eirini Klampatsea

Assistant Professor, NTUA

General Secretary of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment
Ministry of Environment and Energy

During the last six years, Greece has been experiencing in the most extreme way the results of a deep crisis. A systemic crisis that, even though it involves a great number of countries, here in the Mediterranean, in conjunction with the state of war in Syria, has taken tragic dimensions. Moreover, it is a crisis with an important spatial dimension.

We are effectively situated at the « Front » of the crisis and for this reason this year's Biennale is for us not only a challenge but also a moment to explore, recognize and comprehend what is happening, as well as the special relationship between the tools of architecture and the architects, in their quest for ways of intervention and of answers, as we form relations and places.

The Architects' Association, the Panhellenic academic and professional body for architects, has accepted with a great sense of responsibility the invitation for a collective agency to be, for the first time, the national curator.

We have taken the most difficult path, choosing to oppose to the competitive *acquis* a collective process, involving all those who wish to put themselves to the test of this experience of composition, a process familiar to architects, but this time in an uncommon scale. A source of inspiration has been the way in which, during these years, thousands of people, specialists and non-specialists, have met and developed resourceful practices, responding with immediacy and effectiveness to a host of problems, while, at the same time, they have opened up a dialogue on a series of other issues, and were engaged in social activism. At a time when the profession of the architect has been underrated and a large number of colleagues are living through unemployment, we asked ourselves about the place of architectural practice in this urgent situation and the transformations of the architectural act.

Our intention is that the Biennale should not be just a moment, but rather a process in constant progress in time, as well as, space starting out from the first day when we all sat down around a table, and hoping to meet again in Venice, Lesvos and on Lampedusa through our social activism against the grabbing of land, and in laying claim to the right to housing, as well as in the quest for new proposals on social housing and spatial planning, with all those who share the same concerns and explorations with us.

Our hope and project are that this catalogue would not be a closed corpus of knowledge and information, but should remain open and be enriched by our encounters, here and elsewhere, throughout these six months.

Concluding this brief note, I would like to thank, not merely as a formality but in real terms, all those who have trusted one another, have overcome the natural desire for distinction, have worked with enthusiasm, and are here today. Because we know that we shall meet again when this needed, together with other things, and with many others in an open and on-going process of collaboration and inventiveness.

Tonia Katerini

President SADAS Greek Architects Association

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We are a collectivity: #ThisIsA Co-op

The option of the Architects' Association (Greek initials: SADAS) in undertaking the role of curator of the Greek entry in the 15th Venice Architecture Biennale has activated an exceptionally interesting process to which many Greek architects have contributed. An invitation drawn up on the basis of the general theme of the Biennale by the Board of Management of SADAS called forth the submission of initial proposals for the shaping of the theme for the Greek entry. Then, following an invitation to colleagues, an academic committee was formed which undertook to compile a text which attempted to define a common aim based on excerpting from these proposals. The logic of the text was summed up in its title: 'inventiveness on the construction site of the crisis'. All the proposals had this common denominator: that in the conditions of the acute social and economic crisis, space in Greece does not serve only as the stage-set for disaster but also as the field for inventiveness which attempts to overcome disaster, to dream, and to give birth to new relations and new capacities.

The text was adopted by the Board of SADAS and formed the framework within which architects from the whole of Greece were called upon to shape proposals. The aim was that these proposals should serve not only as the material of an exhibition, but, above all, as the motive perspective of a collective elaboration which would produce both the pavilion and the exhibits, as well as the workshops which would make the pavilion a place of collective creativity. Resourcefulness in conditions of crisis was thus approached not as a series of phenomena deserving of observation and study, but also as an active force within the profession which lays the foundations for its social role.

The collectivity which was structured from the beginning of the undertaking took the form of an open assembly. The combination of the governing ideological convention of the general entry and of the specific tactics of the on-going open assembly were what were termed and established as a collectivity. In successive crowded meetings, the assembly shaped its rules of operation based on equality of status and respect for differing views and for its members.

All the committees which were originally set up (Proposals, Academic, Organising, Communications) were joined into one, on the logic of the formation of a single democratic body.

Thus we arrived at forming collectively our own 'despatch from the front', from both the social struggles and the day-to-day efforts of architects in their search for ideas and proposals for dealing with the crisis.

We had to 're-discover' collective procedures, the participatory spirit, unification, consultation. We re-discovered democracy through an on-going dialogue which does not stop at physical presence, but extends to the internet framework of communication, and does not stop at our own country: it is our

wish that this dialogue should continue to be produced in Venice and foster processes of collaboration even after Venice. We are creating a 'market' in the exchange of ideas and views. What is produced there is the continuation of what has happened here: our own counter-example!

Our Association has a long and important history. At the centre is thinking about the social role of architects and the strengthening of their voice and of their creative influence. We are charged, therefore, with the responsibility of speaking through our collective body and of making our collective voice heard where it belongs.

We are on an intellectual construction site, definitive for our action as architects from this point on ... at the beginning of a new age. On our construction site, we have agreed to negotiate, to define, to publish, and to uphold the content of four substantive issues: 1. the refugee question as a world-wide phenomenon with a special and important expression in Greek territory; 2. the crisis of the city as a constant and now identified political issue for reflection, but, at the same time, as a technical question of spatial solutions and sustainability; 3. space as a social good, as a new and exceptional re-thinking negotiation of the common and distributable urban space; 4. the crisis in the profession as a phenomenon and convention which is shaping a series of particular novel reactions and re-shapings of institutional and professional practices.

We know that none of us, however resourcefully we design, is capable of providing solutions adequately to all these issues without a co-ordinated, dynamic, and, above all, collective presence.

On these major issues which concern us, Greece's entry this year responds by creating a place for dialogue and action. A place for the expression and reception of democracy. A space for a gathering of people where discussions will be embarked upon, *problématiques* voiced, and solutions proposed.

'There's room for all of us' is the motto which has inspired and continues to inspire us. Thus, before we went on to any creative decision, we had first to commit ourselves democratically to how we take decisions, to how disagreements are to be integrated. We have followed the tactic of incorporation into the process and not exclusion from it.

We functioned as one body, and it was only at the culmination of the assembly process, after marathon collective procedures, that we decided to divide up into teams in order to give substance to the collective spirit.

In the exhibition at the Greek pavilion, we decided to give emphasis to participation, rather than to exhibits as self-contained gestures, to collaboration and to networking. Participation is the vital component in our thinking and the ideological articulation of meaning and practices. We have attempted to include architects from the whole of Greece, the capital and the provinces, in order to record a polyphony. The Association gives expression to different trends and apprehensions, and it is this that we thought should be put across in the Greek entry.

Perhaps the most critical aim of the undertaking supported by this open assembly has been the joint shaping of a collective work. Polyphony has been the precondition, participation the motive force, and the perspective of consensus the

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guarantee for the production of such a work. We wanted the end result, the Greek entry in the Biennale, to be the offspring of the collective process which created it, as well as a mirror of it. It was not sufficient for us to collect ideas and to cite proposals. We have attempted to compose, in the form of a collective work, a place and an on-going process of production of proposals which we share, which we shape together, and which we jointly support.

The procedure which was chosen certainly had its difficulties. It was necessary for us to measure our strength against problems such as the participation of those who could not be physically present and there at the meetings. It was necessary for us to grapple with our personal egoisms, the obsessions, and the suspicions which can be activated by a joint effort: we are aware that the society which we live in nurtures individualism and selfishness and that it is not easy for someone to escape from such deeply ingrained tendencies.

However, we became convinced that the 'collective' is not the result, but the intention with which we have approached the Greek entry. This is why we have learnt that collectivity must be protected, and that it is through this protection that democracy is ensured. With respect for the procedures, the ethics, and the seriousness of the whole undertaking. All of us as we participate become a part of a creative process in which we appreciate ourselves and others.

There is freedom in presences, in availability. We take part in a horizontal distribution. We are one – non-hierarchical – body which is briefed and enters into discussion, a living structure which develops through feedback and is moulded in meetings. We speak out of the fullness of the participatory process.

Thus we arrived at the question: how is collectivity to be rendered visual? How is its space to be made a framework for reception and at the same time an 'exhibit' in an architecture exhibition? How is a platform to be provided for 'weaker' associations and movements, and not to known names? In the spatial arrangement of our proposal in the Greek pavilion, the concept of 'I take part' has priority. The pavilion is treated as a space to receive collectivity. In this we seek to give expression to the traces of the procedure which produced it and the processes which it will host. We have not attempted a group exhibition, but a group work.

We have at our disposal many proposals from group or individual entries which negotiate the issues of refugees / migrants, the crisis of the city, and the city as a common good, the crisis in the profession, and of collectivity in general. We have approached the host of proposals with great care. We have listened to them and classified them.

In the shaping of the Greek pavilion, the round-table discussion has been transmuted into an amphitheatre which occupies the greater part of the enclosed space. In the amphitheatre, views are exchanged and perspectives are explored. In the amphitheatre, agreements are reached; in the amphitheatre, solutions are sought; in the amphitheatre, joint initiatives are perhaps moulded. In this space of the contemporary market, there is no signature. There are the signatures of all the groups and individuals who have contributed to its realisation.

The realisation of our intentions takes on flesh and blood through our proposal for the pavilion, in which the following are given substance: (a) An amphitheatre which will host discussions. There, as its form proposes and guides,

Events

- # *Activation: House Warming Performance for the Place of Commons*
Collective Event Open to Participation
> May 27/28 12:00–18:00
(Greek Pavilion Giardini)
Ivi Diamantopoulou, Lotfi-Jam Farzin, Nikos Georgiadis, Kostantinos Gounaridis, Prodromos Gounaridis, Elina Karanastasi, Zoi Kimpezi, Panagiotis K. Koumoundouros, Manos Laoutaris, Mary Mavridi, Iason Pantazis, Eleni Petouri, Julie Psalida, Eirini Dafni Sapka, Efstratios Skopelitis, Iordanis Styliadis, Eleni Tzirtzilaki, Spyros Tsitouris, Alexandros Valsamidis, Parina Vasilopoulou, Sofia Vyzoviti
- # *Workshop / symposium: My Public Space: Agora, urban space and citizenship*
Coordinators: Angeliki Avgitidou (SADAS-PEA), Marcello Balbo, Laura Fregolent and Simona Morini (IUAV)
> 12th June, 12.00
(Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *Refugees in Greece now and then: from the Asia Minor refugees in 1922 to the Syrian refugees today*
Foteini Georgakopoulou, Eleni Tzirtzilaki
The event will take place at an occupied space housing refugees (Athens)
- # *Urban Block*
Iordanis Styliadis
(Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *Design participatory tools: Crisis, Autopoiesis, Digital Media*
Anthi Kosma, Imprografika
(Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *Workshop: An alternative proposal for Hellinikon*
Team of architects for Hellinikon (Athens)
- # *Your City Lab*
oac athens (Athens)
- # *Public-Free Spaces, Common Goods*
Team of architects for Hellinikon (Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *Exile Europe performance-action: Biennale – exile island Makronisos*
Nomadic Architecture Network (Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *Gender and Space*
Christina Thomopoulou, Eleni Tzirtzilaki, Loukas Eleftheriou
Action-Installation-conference (Abandoned pavilion of Dimitris Pikionis, Filoppapou Hill, Athens)
- # *The Home of Desires and Pains. Aristomenis Proveleggios*
Nomadic Architecture Network (Sifnos island)
- # *Beforelight*
Prototyping Urban Lightscapes
- # *Towards a Museum of the Commons*
Hariklia Hari, Zoe Kimbezi, Anastasia Papadopoulou, Eleni Petouri / NonPlan Architectural Lab and Yorgos Iatrou, Stamatis Papathanassiou / Xrisi Tomi (Greek Pavilion Giardini and Keratouvouni mountain, Makronissos, Vravrona archaeological site, along the coast of Eastern Attica)
- # *The towns of new citizens*
Curators: Eirini Afentouli, Anastasios-Iason Giannopoulos, Dimitrios

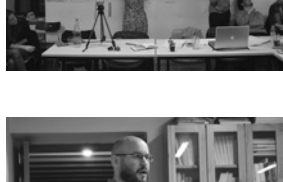
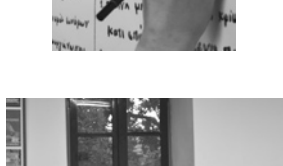
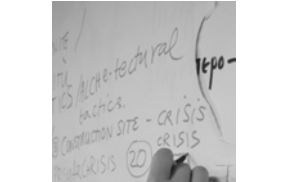
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- # *Cultural Identity & Sustainability*
Stephania Mosse
(Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *The Great Number*
A Whale's architects
(Venice)
- # *Lampris, Konstantina Marinaki, Vasileios Mavrianos, Georgios A. Panetsos, Sophia Sophianou, Athina Spiliotopoulou*
(Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *Fabric Building, ATH 100%*
Nefeli Papanagiotou, Mara Petra (Athens)
- # *Akalyptos' – The Hybrid Hortus Conclusus*
Akalyptos SKG (Thessaloniki)
- # *Voiding the Greek pavilion: for an architecture of living archiving actions across immigration routes*
Dimitris Giannisis, Panos Kouros (Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *The crisis of Architecture and new forms of habitat*
Maria Kasola
- # *Zaha steals fire from Zeus*
Panagiotis K. Koumoundouros
> November, 25th 2016, 3 pm
(Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *From Urban Commons To Co-housing Practices*
Panayotis Antoniadis, Constantina Theodorou, Stathis Kefallouros, Stelios Minotakis, Sophia Dona, Elisavet Hasa and housing collectives from Zurich, Germany and Athens
(Greek Pavilion Giardini)
- # *Athens: Future tense workshop*
Nikos Anastasopoulos
(Athens)
- # *Practices of Urban Solidarity*
Zissis Kotionis, Yianna Barkouta

For more information stay tuned!
thisisaco-op.gr

Invitation to a dialogue
#ThisIsACo-op, the Greek National Participation in the 15th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia, invites all national participations to conduct public discussions and actions inside and outside the space of the Greek Pavilion in the *Giardini*. We consider our pavilion to be a common ground of dialogue and communication for the international community. The amphitheatric construction, which is a central element of this year's pavilion, can host meetings of architects, associations and movements. The national participations are welcomed to pursue *in situ* proposals and solutions to the common fronts produced by the crisis.

Catalogue / coming soon...
The upcoming catalogue is a collection of 85 essays & projects mainly produced from the participants arranged in four thematic sections: refugee migration, the city in crisis, space as a common good and the architect's profession in crisis in Greece, with a dedicated corpus of texts on collectivity and the role of Greek Architect's Association as a social condenser.



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Participants

Afentouli Eirini; Anastasopoulos Nicholas; Avgitidou Angeliki; Balaoura Olga; Banos Symeon; Barkouta Yianna; Bitrou Mara; Bletsas Christos; Chandelis Stefanos; Chatziangelidis Pavlos; Christoulia Maria; Daflos Kostas; Dalampouras Thomas; Damala Andromachi; Danou Melpo; Deligiorgi Marissia; Diamantopoulou Ivi; Dima Lina; Demopoulos Panayiotis; Disli Eleftheria; Eleftheriou Loukas; Eleftheriadis Dimitrios; Filippidou Despoina; Fiorenzakis Vasileios; Gazepis Nikos; Georgakopoulou Foteini; Georgiadis Nikos; Gialia Valia; Giannisis Dimitris; Giannopoulos Iasonas-Anastasios; Gounaridis Konstantinos; Gounaridis Prodromos; Grevia Kiki; Grozopoulos Dimitrios; Gyftopoulou Stefania; Hari Hariklia; Hasa Elisavet; Iatrou Yvonne; Inetzi Sotiria; Kakogiannis Kostas; Kallitsis Phevos; Karanastasi Elina; Karystinaiou-Efthymioutou Ernestina; Kassola Maria; Katerini Tonia; Kazeros Nikos; Kibezi Zoi; Kontinou-Chimou Stefania; Kontiza Iakovina; Kosma Anthi; Kostaropoulou Myrto; Kotionis Zissis; Kottis Ioannis; Kotsari Georgia; Koumoundouros Panagiotis K.; Kourou Panos; Koutsonanou Annita; Kyriazis Apostolos; Lada Sasa; Lampris Demetrios; Laoutaris Manos; Lavasa-Karapa Anna; Lazaris Andreas; Light art collective Beforelight; Lykourioti Iris; Lycourioti Leda; Mamalaki Panagiota; Marinaki Konstantina; Maris Eleftherios; Mavrianos Vasileios; Mavridis Mary; Michail Nafsika; Minotakis Stylianos; Mitropoulos Yiannis; Mosse Stephanina; Nikoloutsou Chrysi; Noukakis Yorgis; Panagiotopoulou Vassiliki; Panetos Georgios A.; Pangalos Panayotis; Pantazis Iason; Papadimas Giorgos; Papadopoulou Anastasia; Papadopoulou Dafni; Papagkikas Giorgos; Papanagiotou Nefeli; Paraskevopoulou Asimina; Petouri Eleni; Petra Mara; Petridis Pantelis; Platanioti Maria; Plavou Vassiliki-Maria; Psallida Julie; Sapka Anna; Sapka Eirini-Dafni; Savvidis Konstantinos; Sereti Maria; Skopelitis Efstratios; Sofianou Sofia; Sotiriopoulou Tzina; Spiliadi Marilli; Spiliotopoulou Athina; Spiotta Artemisia; Stais Prodromos; Stamataki Eftychia; Stavridis Stavros; Stylidis Iordanis; Theocharis Stavros; Theodoropoulos Chrysostomos; Theodorou Constantina; Thomopoulou Christina; Tossouni Konstantina; Totsikas Panos; Traganou Jilly; Travlou Penny; Tsagkaraki Evgenia; Tsakalidou Venetia; Tsakiridou Yiouli; Tsakiropoulos Irene; Tsalikidis Ioannis; Tsironi Natassa; Tsitouris Spyros; Tsonakas Vasilis; Tzeveleku Christina; Tzirtzilaki Eleni; Valsamidis Alexandros; Vasilopoulou Parina; Vatavali Fereniki; Verteouri Anastasia; Virirakis Lefteris; Vogiatzaki Dimitra; Vyzoviti Sophia; Xenaki Maria; Zachariadi Alexandra; Zitonoulis Vaivos; Zografou Dafni

Commissioner

Ministry of Environment and Energy, General Secretary of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment, Eirini Klampatsea

Curator

Association of Greek Architects, SADAS-PEA

The Association of Greek Architects was established in 1922 in Athens. Its mission is to promote, disseminate and preserve architecture in Greece, as well as to safeguard the interests of its members. The Association's agenda includes promoting the industry's distinctive professional identity, protecting architects' professional rights and developing a nationwide organization.

#ThisIsACo-op

Greek Pavilion, 15th International Architecture Exhibition

La Biennale di Venezia

Exhibition duration: 28 May – 27 November 2016

Location: Giardini, Venice, Italy

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC, Ministry of Environment & Energy



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