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Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Transitional housing for young adults in a time of crisis and unemployment

2. Format:

Written paper / verbal presentation

3. Author(s) Name:

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6. Abstract (300 words):

18-25 year olds in Greece and elsewhere deep in an economic recession are facing an unemployment rate of 51.8% according to the latest EuroStat figures. Young people in this age group need to be especially mobile to secure work where this is available and in many case this is not close to home. Many of these people as they move to new cities are facing spatial segregation, which is closely linked to social and economic distance

from appropriate housing venues. In the case of these young people mutual support for safety, professional training or retraining networking is very important. As examples of informal collectives are beginning to appear the question of the spatial and physical implications of housing for mobile, almost nomadic, people in this age that addresses the concerns raised above is becoming an interesting challenge for architects and urban planners tasked with designing this type of housing stock. The methodological approach suggested is to become better informed as to the particular circumstances facing this group of people is twofold and is concerned with the socioeconomic profiling of the potential users and the spatial organization of habitation. The first will be addressed through a series of questionnaires disseminated in areas that are already facing an influx of young people searching employment and housing to distil the demographic characteristics of these potential users. The second is the examination of appropriate precedents as a primer for design, which will then undergo a diagnostic investigation of spatial and programmatic analysis. The synthesis of these two folds will then be presented in the form of schematic proposals of spatial organizations and taxonomies that allow for the opportunistic appropriation and development of leftover and underutilized sites in the city.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words maximum for all authors):

Andreas Savvides is a registered architect and city planner and a LEED® Accredited Professional. He studied architecture and city planning in California and Massachusetts and he has practiced as part of interdisciplinary design teams working on a variety of projects. He is currently serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at the University of Cyprus. In the past, he was appointed as one of the education directors at the Boston Architectural Center (BAC) where he taught, amongst others, design studios and workshops in interdisciplinary design and integrated project delivery. His research interests are in sustainable design and development practices leading to the densification and regeneration of underperforming and underutilized urban cores. His approach to the field looks at both the environmental and the cultural factors pertaining to sustainable urban design and development with a focus on transit-oriented housing development.

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