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January 21 – 22. 2016

Architecture_MPS, University of Cyprus; Cyprus Institute

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

- 1. Paper / Proposal Title:** Suburban domesticity as a form of resistance.
- 2. Format:** Written paper
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- 5. University or Company Affiliation:** Assistant Professor of History and Theory
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6. Abstract (300 words):

More than six decades after the great boom of suburban housing in the US, the irrationality of such urban model and the need to focus on the now abandoned urban centers is already a undisputed idea. Paradoxically, in the midst of the consequent decay of Suburbia as an ideal, when its original egalitarian promise has long been reduced to a collection of banal constructions, mowed front yards and safety paranoia, we still can find a particular type of free urban life on the marginal lifestyles of certain suburban neighborhoods: Trailer parks, informal yard sales, improvised playgrounds, backyards stuffed with junk and other similar scenarios, in which we see alternative forms of domesticity put in practice by the lower classes to activate an otherwise dead urban environment.

In this paper I will examine how these spontaneous tactics configure housing strategies politically challenging for both the reformist notion of urban density as a universal solution for social justice in the city, and for the neoliberal defense of Suburbia as a form of economic and cultural freedom. My points of departure will be, firstly, a critical revision of Venturi and Scott-Brown's classical manifestos on Suburbia -Learning from Las Vegas and Signs of Life- and, secondly, an expansion of the critical notion of Everyday Urbanism proposed by Margaret Crawford after Henri Lefebvre, to defend the validity of informal suburban practices. Beyond the understanding of these practices and the architectural situations they make possible as insignificant local exceptions -as we see on Venturi's indifference and on the colorful interpretation by Crawford-, I will examine the possibility of them being the pattern of a unique form of political and urban resistance. The only spatial pattern characterized by difference that exists, almost unnoticed, within the ubiquitous expansion of the space of contemporary capitalism.

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

David Franco is Assistant Professor of History and Theory at the School of Architecture of Clemson University in South Carolina. Previously he has occupied full time teaching positions as Assistant Professor at the University of Idaho and as Associate Professor at the Escuela Politecnica Superior CEU in Madrid, in which he was also director of the Architecture Thesis Program. He has lectured in Universities across Europe in places like Newcastle, Ljubljana, Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Tromso, Paris, Berlin and Cottbus among others. He has published his own works as well as articles on architectural theory in journals, magazines and books such as Bauwelt, ArquitectArquitectos, Arquitectura Viva, Byggekunst, Arkitektur+Wettbewerb, A+T, Constelaciones or Arkitektur Sweden. He opened his practice MISC arquitecos (www.misc.es) in Madrid in 2004 and has developed and built projects in Norway, Finland, England, Poland and Spain, being awarded National and International prizes such as the First Prize in European 6 and European 7, or the First Prize or the Casa de Juventud de Santonia, that was later completed. His projects have been widely published in international books and magazines such as Bauwelt, A+T, Arquitectura Viva, A10 or Arquitectos, and displayed in exhibitions such as the 10th Venice Biennale or the Primera Bienal del Paisaje de Canarias.

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