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## **HOUSED by CHOICE, HOUSED by FORCE - Homes, Conflicts and Conflicting Interests**

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Architecture\_MPS, University of Cyprus; Cyprus Institute

### **Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:**

**Housing, Home and Community in Nicosia:**

**An Urban Communication Perspective**

**1. Paper / Proposal Title:** "Housing, Home and Community in Nicosia: An Urban Communication Perspective"

**2. Format:** written paper and verbal presentation

*Written paper / verbal presentation / screening / short film / other – please specify*

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**5. University or Company Affiliation:** Urban Communication Foundation (and Hofstra University for Susan Drucker)

**6. Abstract (300 words):** \_\_\_\_\_

Nicosia is an urban landscape caught in the process of rapid change. It is a city that while divided by political and religious differences, is also shaped by shared common issues and problems that require cooperation and contact with the "other side." It is a place experiencing resurgence with gentrification, new migrant populations and a Starchitect designed public square.

Nicosia is both a concept and a place defined by layers of division. "Nicosia" is both "Lefkosia" and "Lefkosha." It is a dense landscape and urban sprawl with the urban core of the old walls defining it and suburban sprawl pulling a population outwards and further away from the center.

Migration is a defining characteristic of Nicosia: migration out of the city to the suburbs, migration from foreign nations and cultures into the central core, migration as lifestyle choice, migration out of economic necessity, forced migration as refugee.

Housing and home are not synonyms. To Cypriot refugees "home" lives in memory. The municipalities in exile in Cyprus bear witnesses to the enduring power of connection to "home" and place. When considering housing in Nicosia one part of the demographics to consider are those who consider themselves refugees within their own country. There is a sense of being so near yet so far; able to visit but not stay; able to go to with unacceptable restrictions.

At the same time, immigrants, migrant workers and refugees constitute a major source of necessary support for Nicosia and its environs. Their social and housing needs constitute unique needs that are seldom addressed.

The relationship of housing and home can be explored through the concepts of community; place attachment and place identity. What communicative opportunities and affordances are need in creating housing that creates community and commitment in a changing Nicosia?

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

Gary Gumpert: (Ph.D, Wayne State University) is Emeritus Professor of Communication at Queens College of the City University of New York and co-founder of Communication Landscapers, a consulting firm. Professor Gumpert's publications include edited volumes of Inter/Media: Interpersonal Communication in a Media Age published by Oxford University Press) co-edited with Robert Cathcart; Talking Tombstones and Tales of the Media Age. He is the president of the Urban Communication

Susan J. Drucker: (J.D. , St. John's University School of Law, M.A., Queens College,

1985).holds the rank of Professor & coordinator of the media studies program in the Department of Journalism/ Mass Media Studies, School of Communication, Hofstra University. She is an attorney. She is the author and editor of 10 books and over 150 articles and book chapters including The Urban Communication Reader (volumes 1-3).

Susan Drucker and Gary Gumpert have conducted research in Cyprus for over 20 years. This work focuses on the impact of communication technology upon social relationships viewed from a human rights perspective. They have collaborated with various organizations in Cyprus including Future Worlds Cyprus and have lectured widely and published scholarly and newspaper articles about Cyprus. They are completing a documentary "Memories in Cypriot Soil."

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