



THE CYPRUS
INSTITUTE



University
of Cyprus

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

January 21 – 22. 2016

Architecture_MPS, University of Cyprus; Cyprus Institute

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: The Scarred Skin of Cyprus - The Scarred Skin of Cyprus -Water as a an Intervening Infrastructure for the Housing Condition along the Green Line of Cyprus

2. Format: other: Short Paper + Architectural Proposal

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

3. Author(s) Name: Samira Daneshvar

4. Email contact details: samira.daneshvar@mail.utoronto.ca

5. University or Company Affiliation: University of Toronto

6. Abstract (300 words):

The Scarred Skin of Cyprus

Our contact with the world takes place at the boundary line of the self through specialized parts of our enveloping membrane. Skin is the mediator that integrates our experience of the world with that of

ourselves. My body remembers who I am and where I am located in the world. My body is truly the navel of my world, not in the sense of the viewing point of the central perspective, but as the very locus of reference, memory, imagination and integration.

Juhanni Pallasmaa, "The Eyes of the Skin"

If the point of reference, the locus of the place is displaced, if the materialization of the object changes, skin will no longer be the border escape between the self and the self-less. It will become a space of thresholds, with gradient range of in-between places, and no absolute distinction between the outsider and the insider.

The Buffer Zone was primarily established by a British army officer, General Peter Younge in 1964 when he drew a cease-fire line across a map of the island in green crayon pencil.¹ In this piece, this cut line is studied parallel to a line drawn on the skin prior to cut by a surgical scalpel. And water, perhaps similar to blood, is treated as an intervening infrastructure in understanding these conditions. Resulted conditions of border treatment in towns and villages across the Buffer Zone possess similarities to other border conditions beyond the national territories of Cyprus: These conditions range metaphorically from a knife cut (in farther west of Mediterranean Sea; Kato Prygos), to open wound (in Nicosia), stitched wound (in Mamarria and Lympia) and remaining scar (in Pyla). The placement of towns and villages across, along and parallel to the green zone, is studied in accordance with occupancies of other border conditions around the globe.

This project is an investigation towards threshold spaces within border zone conditions. Architecture, being an inevitable occupant of these in-between-places, performs as a projection on possible conditions that are politically created and socially creative via delicacy of their occupancy. The United Nation's Buffer zone in Cyprus is one of few border spaces that contains a range of separation and division conditions extending beyond geographical means of national place making. Similar to other border conditions, the Green Line of Cyprus also evolves towards formation of social constructs on the outermost membrane of the earth: the analogical skin.

¹ Shellman, Stephen and Kürşad Turan. 2003. "The Cyprus Crisis:" *Simulation & Gaming* 34 (2): 281-291.

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

Samira Daneshvar is a post-professional graduate from Master of Science in Architecture program with Design and Health concentration from University of Michigan. She joined the professional Master of Architecture program at University of Toronto after five years of medical studies. Her research and design work is directed towards an interdisciplinary field of architecture and medical sciences.

Submit forms to: admin@architecturemps.com