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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: Housed by Chance - How Cypriots Became Refugees in Each Other's Houses after the 1974 War with Turkey

2. Format: verbal presentation / short film of 3 minutes

3. Author(s) Name: Socrates Stratis

4. Email contact details: stratiss@ucy.ac.cy

5. University or Company Affiliation: Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus

6. Abstract (300 words):

This paper is about a "Housed by Chance" condition where some Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot refugees found themselves in each other's' homes due to the 1974 war with Turkey. As a matter of fact, 250,000 Greek Cypriots were forced to move to the south part of Cyprus and 65,000 Turkish Cypriots to the north part. The Greek Cypriots were housed either in refugee housing estates, in self-built estates or in the homes left behind

by the Turkish Cypriots. The Turkish Cypriots were housed in the abundant housing stock left behind by the Greek Cypriots. The paper will unfold the spatial displacement and mechanisms of re-housing of the Cypriot refugees and it will focus on the first encounters of the displaced Cypriots taking place after the opening of the check points in 2003, when they had the chance to visit their homes after almost 40 years. As a matter of fact, the paper builds on a research started back in 2003 and presented by the author and his collaborators in Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2006, where the author mapped several "Reverse Refugees' Displacement Paths", chains of displacement of a number of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot refugees into each other's homes. The paper's aim is to contribute into the unfolding of the actual controversy in regards to property which is one of the main conflict issues in the Cyprus political issue.

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

Socrates Stratis is Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus. He has a Doctorate Degree in Urban Studies-Planning, University of Paris 8, France and a Bachelor and Master Degree of Architecture (Urban Design), Cornell University, USA. Socrates' research focuses on the public role of architecture in uncertain, plus contested contemporary urban environments. He studies such role by concentrating on "architecture-as-urbanism", and on "architecture's spatial agencies". Through the study of the strategic value of architecture-as-urbanism and of the social practices of architecture's spatial agency, he underwrites the architecture's political dimension through its re-engagement with contemporary urban environment transformations. He does that by oscillating between a reflective practice and a practice based research, thanks to a diversity of activities he has been involved in, such as teaching, practicing, curating and writing. His is one of the main founders of the agency AA & U for Architecture, Art and Urbanism, (www.aaplusu.com). He is the editor of the "UAW Book: about Urban Awareness", Damdi, Seoul, 2013 and the project leader of "Hands-on Famagusta" (www.handsonfamagusta.org). He is also member of the scientific committee of European Europe. His work has received many awards and it has been part of exhibitions including Venice Biennales of Architecture (2004-2008).

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