TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S): AN INTERPLAY OF DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Grafting culture onto urban space: the exploration of community-based practices towards sustainability in the case of Pafos, Cyprus

• Format(s):
In-person presentation / Written paper

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• Abstract (300 words):
Since the 70’s, Pafos’s spatial fabric has been worn down by neglect and haphazard urban development. The city’s historic center, emptied of its inhabitants due to political and social reasons, has become threadbare, severing its connections with its citizens. The city’s periphery, sprawling as a result of economic pressures and lifestyle patterns, is
spotted with segregated communities and informal ethnic enclaves. When Pafos set out to become the 2017 European Capital of Culture (ECoC), it embarked on an ambitious plan to introduce change in the heart of an area that had for decades been anxious to shed its spatial, economic and cultural backwater character.

The network of spatial interventions proposed for the Pafos2017 “Open Air Factory” was not designed to be merely a series of distinct sites for cultural events, but conceived as a tool for re-defining the urban open spaces of Pafos as sites of social interaction, inter-cultural exchange and collective creativity. It aimed to promote sustainable practices and emphasize public participation in order to build social capital and enhance civic pride. The Integrated Urban Development Plan (2014-2020), prepared by the Municipal Authorities after the success of the ECoC bid, targeted the protection and promotion of cultural heritage and the regeneration of public space as a means of enhancing the economic competitiveness of the city—which is mostly structured around tourism—, enhancing public life, increasing employment, and alleviating social exclusion.

With the 2017 ECoC events still unfolding, we are investigating the imprint of what is essentially a series of cultural activities unto the city fabric, and the extent to which the integration of “Community-based” approaches affect the physical, social and economic dimensions of urban space in a sustainable direction. Two main public spaces in Pafos, parts of the extensively remodeled urban center, are used as case studies.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

   **Evanthia Dova** received her Diploma in Architecture from the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), and her Master of Architecture (MArch II, Post-professional Degree) from the Yale University School of Architecture in U.S.A. She is currently a Lecturer in Architecture at Neapolis University Pafos in Cyprus, and she has also taught as a Lecturer in the School of Architecture, Technical University, Crete and in the AUTH Department of Architecture, where she is a PhD candidate. Her academic research focuses on issues of dwelling in the city centre and the urban periphery and its cultural representations. She has also worked professionally in public and private projects in Greece and the U.S.A. Ms. Dova has worked in research programmes focusing on the documentation of architectural heritage and its applications on scientific research and touristic promotion. She was a member of the Pafos 2017 Working Group (2010-2012), and co-coordinator of the Infrastructure and Urban Development Volunteer Group. She has worked as an academic advisor on ECoC projects and has co-curated the “Producing Lines: Architectural Projects for Pafos” exhibition.

   **Angeliki Sivitanidou** holds a Bachelor (BArch) and a Master (March II) in Architecture and Environmental Design from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, USA. Currently, she is a PhD student at the University of Kent, UK, researching Cypriot bioclimatic traditional
architecture, and a Lecturer at Neapolis University Pafos, Cyprus. Her academic research focuses on vernacular architecture and heritage preservation, Bioclimatism and sustainability, culture-led urban development and cultural policy. Until 2010, she worked as a chartered architect (RIBA) and a sustainability consultant in the USA and UK. She was a team-leader of two sustainable university campuses in Marzuq and Awbari, Libya, shortlisted for the Aga Khan Award (2010). From 2010 – 2012, Ms. Sivitanidou was a member of the “Working Group” that prepared the candidacy application of Pafos for the title of “European Capital of Culture 2017”, and the creator of the “Cultural Barometer Research Project”, used for the assessment and development of Pafos2017 cultural events. Until 2014, she was a co-ordinator of the Pafos2017 Infrastructure and Urban Development Group, and a member of the Municipality Consultancy Committee for the implementation of Pafos urban masterplan. In 2017, she was an academic advisor and a co-ordinator on a number of ECoC projects.

Evgenios Balasis holds the Diploma in Architecture from the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) and a Master in Cartographic Production & Geographic Analysis from the School of Rural & Surveying Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, AUTH. He is currently teaching in Real Estate Valuation and Development programme of NUP, Cyprus, and also leading the Urban Planning department of an international consultants’ firm in Abu Dhabi. Evgenios is a registered architect and a certified planner, experienced on governmental land planning, town planning, housing and urban regeneration projects in Greece, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, but has also worked on private housing design as a freelancer. He has been awarded in architectural competitions related to public space and urban reformation projects. However, isolated areas of low population density, as well as existing unplanned agglomerations are of his favorites to research and study. Politics is his main tool of analysis.