TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S) – DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
On buildings: the fate of the unbaptised

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with/without a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
The essay traces a ‘theology’ of western preservation in order to look beyond the tangible realm it is most usually situated in. Attempting a leap from the world of people to the world of buildings, this work contemplates on the concept of death and portrays buildings through the transcendental language of religion to approach their intangible context.
The idea of preservation is fundamentally attached to modernity, through the imperative questions of keeping and erasing. The birth of a monument celebrates a decisive moment in time when loss is confronted daringly; it is this very exposure to the loss that constructs its exceptionality. The monument emerges as a proud remnant of the past and blessed by the vision of the future; it confidently charts its way through the heaven-hell-like crossroads. However, in their heaven-quest, most preserved buildings would not qualify as monuments, but rather lie in Aquinas’ limbo condition; impossible to be either
condemned or blessed. The fundamental death-dipole collapses. These buildings enter a waiting list of no redemption, hiding away from the fate of matter. Resembling ‘the unbaptised’, Agamben would insist these buildings seem to oppose the future in the most radical way possible. The rising of the unbaptised establishes the gradual demise of God. Therefore, we question the subject of preservation, discussing the distinction between monuments and listed buildings, exploring the discreet line between a confident disuse and a timid reuse. Shifting from a Derridean building-archive to the undramatic epidemic of building-lists marks the deadlock of the contemporary. Trapped within their flesh, listed buildings release their offsprings from any responsibility of replacement whatsoever. A constant drifting away from the warlike morality of heroes and saints, only to embrace the pacific ethics of the supermodel, thus pointing at starchitecture.

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

Konstantinos Efstathiou
Kostas was born in Volos and after his graduation from the local Music high school he entered the school of architecture in Athens (NTUA). He is currently working on a project in island of Skopelos that includes both commercial and cultural reuse of a preserved building compound, after a call from the local rural cooperative.

Studying architecture was always seen as part of his general interests from music and cinema to philosophy and politics. This obsession to see studies clearly as a part of his interests was the motive for the dissertation “Troll, the transcription from the internet to contemporary architectural practice” which also led to some anonymous installations including posters and banners as a first try for what we could call “troll politics”.

On October 2017, he accomplished his thesis “A State Romance: the Communal House” as a part of a student cooperative that worked collectively under the title “Misprint Athens: Towards a new Paradigm”. At the same time, the cooperative organized lectures and debates with architects, curators and artists.

During his studies he took part in several competitions and workshops including “Modernism Memorial” (by “archstudies.gr”), “Room 18” (by “Domes”). Finally, he presented part of his dissertation about Troll at the first Pan-Hellenic Undergraduate Philosophy Conference.

George Papam
George is a postgraduate student of Geography at the Harokopio University of Athens, Greece. He previously studied Architecture at the schools of National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zurich (ETHz). George has worked on issues related to the geography of infrastructures, adhering to his interest in theory of urbanism. Essays of his have been presented in Log journal, CARTHA magazine and the Lisbon Triennial of architecture (in collaboration with G. Foufas), as well as Bartlett's LOBBY. George is co-editing the upcoming book provisionally titled
'Misprint Athens: toward a new paradigm' (due 2018, published in Greek), a collection of texts and projects documenting the procedures of ΣΟΔΑ, a collaboration platform for graduate students of architecture working their diploma theses in the context of post-crisis Athens.

Spyridon Tryfonopoulos

Spyros graduated from the school of architecture of National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) on October of 2017 and his is currently doing an internship in ECDM architects in Paris. Although his primary interest is architecture, he wants to see it through a lot of different aspects such as philosophy, cinema, politics and traveling. Throughout his studies he has he participated in two construction programs, in Morocco (2012) and India (2013) and he did his first internship for two months in Assi(Naya) engineering consultant Office in Palestine (2016) through IAESTE organization. Moreover, he has taken place in another two workshops in Greece, in Crete (2013) on natural building (organized by “πηλοίκο” team) and in the art workshop “Philoxenia” (2015) in Loutraki (organized by the local municipality).

Since it’s biggest ambition is to find a continuous way to combine theory and designing, on the basis of his strong belief that architecture should commune ideas apart from being inhabited, he participated on two architectural competitions on 2015 (“Modernism Memorial” organized by “archstudies.gr”) and 2016 (“Room 18” organized by the greek architectural issue “Domes”). Finally, he presented part of his dissertation “Troll, the transcription from the internet to contemporary architectural practice” at the first Pan-Hellenic Undergraduate Philosophy Conference.