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

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Readdressing the past through traditional courtyard houses: from expressions of the past to architectural innovations

• Author(s) Name:
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• University or Company Affiliation:
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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present via pre-recorded film (with/without a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
Our built environment embodies a set of values representing not only socio-cultural, politico-economic, technological advancements but also many tangible and intangible heritage values, which represent societies’ historic and artistic past. A critical challenge faced by modern societies is the reconciliation of modern architectural needs with a sustainable preservation of our architectural heritage. This presentation investigates how we can preserve our architectural past while building for the present. It also explores ways in which contemporary architectural production can respect heritage, not just by visually imitating past forms but through an integration of architectural heritage with contemporary production.
The presentation explores the concept of the ‘courtyard house’, a typical Cypriot architectural model of inwards facing residencies. The effective use of energy, natural ventilation and lighting are only some of the many advantages of these internal courtyards. However, this architectural style also embodies a very important set of tangible and intangible heritage values. Apart from being a representative element of the development of Greek architecture, this model also facilitates social interaction between neighbors by creating a communal, sharing microcosm. This mode of social contact is an extremely valuable part of the intangible heritage of Mediterranean cultures.

Thus, in an attempt to explore the elements of architectural and cultural heritage in Cyprus that could be reintroduced to contemporary production, the presentation illustrates particular examples of how aging residential blocks of flats can obtain characteristics of the valuable past by incorporating elements of our heritage in their design. The presented case studies constitute examples of ways in which:

- elements of our heritage can be introduced to existing aging structures
- expressions of the past can sustainably inform architectural innovation, promoting our heritage values
- architectural heritage can inspire the reinterpretation of intangible values connected to the creation of strong social bonds within communities.

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

Dr. Maria Shehade currently works as an expert scientist at the Cyprus University of Technology. She has also worked as a Guest Lecturer in the Architecture Department of the University of Nicosia for the preparation and delivery of an intensive workshop on built heritage preservation. She worked as a teaching assistant at University College London and contributed to research projects as a research assistant, in Cyprus and the UK. She obtained her first degree in History and Archaeology from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and her MA and PhD in Cultural Heritage Management from University College London. She received funding from the National Foundation of Scholarships of Greece, the UCL Graduate School, the Leventis Scholarship Foundation. Throughout her research and work experience she was involved with the teaching and/or research of many areas of heritage management and built heritage such as heritage sustainability, conservation practices of historic buildings and sites, management strategies etc. Her MA thesis examined the integration of archaeological vestiges into museum buildings, analysing the New Acropolis Museum, while her PhD focused on the resolution of cultural property disputes. She served as a reviewer in academic journals and participated in the organising committee of academic conferences.
Dr. Anna Efstathiou has received her Diploma in Architecture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and her MA in Industrial Design from Birmingham Polytechnic, UK. Her PhD deals with the semiology of Interior spaces and specifically of offices, Edinburgh College of Arts, Heriot Watt University, UK. She holds an MBA degree from the University of Macedonia, Greece. Anna Efstathiou is an Associate Professor of the Department of Architecture, University of Nicosia and Coordinator of the Interior Design Programme since 2012. She has also served in academic positions in AAS College, Thessaloniki, Greece, since 1992 being the Course Leader of the BA and MA Interior Design Courses of the AAS – UCLAN partnership from 2005 to 2011. As a professional architect and Interior Designer she has collaborated with the Technical Department of ATE Bank in Greece serving as the manager of the same Department from 2002 until 2011. In parallel she works as a freelancer with the Archigraph architectural practice. She is a member of professional bodies such as TEE/Greece and ETEK/Cyprus, a member of the Greek Colleges Teaching Staff and a member of the Hellenic Energy Inspectorate (YPEKA). Research interests: the semiology of interior spaces, experience and responsive design, cultural and architectural heritage.