• Paper / Proposal Title:
  ‘LIVING WHERE THE IMMATERIAL MATTERS_ Towards the Commons’.

• Author(s) Name:
  Maria Hadjisoteriou, Yiorgos Hadjichristou

• University or Company Affiliation:
  Architecture Department, University of Nicosia

• Abstract (300 words):
  In the light of the inability of the current socioeconomic systems to meet the rapid environmental, social crises, this Unit- a whole year research base studio with fourth- and fifth-year students, deals with the notion of Commons and explore their potential role in articulating architectural ideas.
  Its core investigation is to provoke a debate on the issue of immaterial matter, and its creative response in redefining a new hybrid urban environment. Architecture and the city are seen as one unified evolving organism which keeps incessantly defining and being defined by multiple agents.
  The Unit aims at raising awareness for and claiming the right of the all people, not generic persons but diverse individuals and specific groups of people to the city. People’s diverse needs, corporeal and sensory capabilities should be facilitated to turn them into equal social actors that influence the way spaces should be designed, leading to Inclusive Architecture.
  Beginning from the notion that space is a social) product, the Unit will provoke questions on the role of the architect as a facilitator, an agent: ‘is production of space a collaborative process?’, ‘can we make the process of architecture a dialogue?’ ‘how do we involve local actors- co-authors?’.
  The Unit will tackle with the issue of the immaterial as an indispensable part of the material matter and the tectonics, seen in a flux relationship.
The theoretical discussion generated by the four sub-thematic inclusive architecture, commons, spatial agency, intangible qualities and a rich set of discourses on Perceptions will act as the backbone of the creative process. They will generate the ‘construction’ of ‘the skins and the bones’ of the living, built environments. Unique Architectural Spatial Qualities (not generic ones) will be required searching for redefining and contributing to the emergence of socially and environmentally sustainable Architecture and Urbanities.

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

Maria Hadjiotseriou is an Associate Professor of the Department of Architecture, University of Nicosia. She received her Dip-Arch from N.T.U.A., Greece, and her Master in Engineering from Mie University in Japan where she was a Monbusho scholar. Japanese Culture highly influenced her Professional Work and Research as well as the way she views Life. Maria’s main focus is “research by design”; therefore parallel to her academic involvement, she has been a practicing architect since 1995. Maria has received a number of awards in local and international architectural competitions, among them is the Europan 9 Sterra project with a runner up prize, the 1st prize for the Kalinikion Town Hall and Museum of Athienou, and the development of the historical center of Agia Fila. Her current research interests include: Mapping as a design methodology, issues of perception with a focus on intangible qualities in architecture and social sustainability in an urban context.

Yiorgos Hadjichristou is a professor of the Architecture Department of the University of Nicosia. He shares his time between academy, teaching, designing and doing activism, being also an architect and member of the Board of the NGO Urban Gorillas. He is the recipient of a number of national and international awards including the Golden Prize of the Union of International Architects for the project “Athienou Town Hall and Museums”. The Architects Council of Europe selected the ‘Kaimakli house’ for the European Sustainable Architecture events and exhibitions. The ‘Architecture Research Center’ was selected by the Italian Union of Architecture and Criticism for the ‘In practice- The state of committed architecture in Europe’ series of events and publication’. His projects were selected and participated in the Mies Van Der Rohe Awards seven times. He is co-editor or five books. He co-curated the Cyprus Pavilion of the Milan Trienale in 2016 and of the Venice Architecture Biennale 2018 with V. Antoniou and A. Swiny. The recent ‘Smalto project was awarded the State Architecture Award.