EUROPEAN URBANITY

EUROPAN 7 and 8 >>
Austria and Slovenia

Bernd Vlay, Paul Rajakovics, Marko Studen (Eds.)

Jochen Becker, Stefano Boeri, Ralf Brand,
Jeff Derksen, Theo Deutinger, Harun Farocki,
Kaye Geipel, Barbara Holub, Dennis Kasport,
Dmitry Kozlov, Ivan Kucina, Maria Loizidou,
Joost Meuwissen, James Njoo, Haris Pellapaisiotis,
Klaus Ronneberger, Andreas Rumpfhuber,
Georg Schöllhammer, Sokratis Stratis,
Eyal Weizman, Dirk van Veldhoven, Scott C. Wolf.
EUROPEAN URBANITY
EUROPAN 7 and 8
Austria and Slovenia

This publication addresses specialist readers from the disciplines architecture, urban planning, sociology, and cultural theory, as well as an audience that is interested in the development of contemporary cities and in experimental architecture work. A comprehensive documentation of projects provides an overview of young architectural strategies on urban development, not only showing all prize-winning and selected EUROPAN projects from EUROPAN 7 and 8 in Austria and Slovenia, but also presenting the projects of Austrian and Slovenian EUROPAN winners abroad.

Accompanying these projects, a collection of texts by writers, critics, theorists, architects, and artists examines the effects of political, economical, and social forces onto urban environments, reflecting spatial and urbanist practices, always in relation to current transformations of urban spaces. Within this context, European Urbanity manifests itself as a set of aberrations of the so-called “European City” propagating a collection of observations and projects, sometimes contradictory, sometimes with surprising parallels, e.g. where childhood memories of St. Petersburg’s suburbia “approach” the fiction of Eindhoven’s future.

The graphic design directly juxtaposes text contributions with architectural projects in order confront the disciplinary realm of architectural projects with its implicit “other,” its reflections on the social and political relevance of architectural work. We suggest a new outlook on Europe’s future urban landscapes promoting the coexistence of theoretical reflection and making do. This coexistence might be EUROPAN’s unsaid dream.

ISBN 978-3-211-47605-5
springer.com
The Cyprus case is actually very rich and complex; especially after the dramatic changes in April 2003, when the military buffer zone opened up at selected points generating the mobility of people between the two parts of the island after 30 years (since the Turkish invasion 1974) of segregation, and even more with regards to Nicosia which has been a parted city since the first clashes between Turkish and Greek Cypriots at the beginning of the 1960s.
Jonathan Bruter (landscape architect) (F), Noely Ratsimiebo (F)
Contributor: Pacome Bommer (F)

Between architecture and landscape 3box suggests a contemporary perception of the
city, of spatiality and materials. After winning CIMETON 2005 they collaborated again
for Europan 8. Also won 1st prize for “City of skyscrapers” (Ljubljana’s biennial 7).
Projects presented: “+DENSE”, exhibition on housing and urban density.
www.3box.biz

Today the plateau and the plain of Brežice turn their back to each other. The
establishment of the new artificial lake is an opportunity to create a contemporary
link between the city and the river. Our project prompts a slide of these two spaces,
one into the other. It reorganises the plain forest to be sustainable and rich of spatial
events, becoming a fundamental trump for the town of Brežice.

This new staged forest, made up of layers, grounds, empty spaces, refuges and
community facilities uses the topographic breaking off and helps views and spaces
to creep from the city to the lake and inversely. It is taking shape gradually by parallel
strips to the slope. The urban plot is the opportunity to show the potential of the
overflow of each of these entities into the other. It becomes the possibility of a
lived-in thickness, offering the city a new identity related to the plain, answering
the very urban programme while using the reference layer system.

Since April 2003 the cease-fire line can be experi-
enced by the two communities as a dead-end. The line
itself was a two-dimensional element only experienced
in its dimension of length. The concept of
dead-ends has indeed become part
of the everyday life of the people.
After April 2003 the world of paradoxes received
a new aspect: Still considered a cease-fire
war zone controlled by the UN, this line
can be experienced by Greek and Turkish
Cypriots from both sides in military,
political and legal terms. Anyone can
cross the cease-fire line at a specific
check point and, for example, wander along
both sides of Ledra Street, Nicosia’s most
important shopping street within the
historical part of the city which has been
cut in two for the past 40 years. However, this
act of transgression only remains
experiential, while the status of
separation still remains a
military one.
Initial Observations

It is rather tragic to have two communities in a state of dispute for such a long time, with a possible solution always on the way (meaning a future cohabitation of whatever sort), but without any methods for managing differences, lacking any concept for generating communicative platforms for speaking out differences. Building is, indeed, a possible framework for future coexistence, a social public space for confrontation/encounter.

An example for such a situation are the telephone networks of the two communities that aren’t directly connected. Even if in the past two years the cease-fire line is crossed daily, the telecommunication network still lacks any connection. With regards to telecommunication/telephone connections, the Turkish Cypriot community has turned into one of Turkey’s remote districts: To make a call from the southern to the northern districts of Nicosia one has,
in fact, to call via Turkey. Quite often vice versa doesn’t work.

What is intriguing is that on both sides of the island the number one call for the phone directory is # 192. This isn’t a coincidence, but rather appears as a trace of former coexistence under the framework of the Cyprus Republic infrastructure. One can find more of this kind of traces in building regulations, or in the construction industry.

Traces of Former Coexistence

We propose to use # 192 as representative code for these traces of former coexistence. It is, indeed, a sign of former communication, and of rupture nowadays. Thus, the “Call # 192” project is the name of the team at work.

“# 192 CALLS U”
What if #192 starts "calling" you?! This is the purpose of this project: To invite people to an on-going process of re-adjusting mental maps of the "other"; to introduce people to the city of the "other" through public means, and to search fragments of this public of all sorts together; to examine relations between the private and the public within the urban environment of the "other". We seek to introduce friction by inserting the public into personal experiences of the urban.

How? / Implementation

The three members of the "Call #192" project team, all with different backgrounds, have worked together to prepare a general framework for the project. It is a framework that allows them to act according to their means and skills.

The public transport network in both parts of the city is used as a device to create urban
areas of everyday life. For this, two bus routes were selected, one at each side of the buffer zone. Both routes run pretty much from east to west on the respective side of the buffer zone creating a kind of a mirrored route. People from both sides are invited to cross the buffer zone and make a trip with each of the members of the “Call # 192” project team; during the bus ride a kind of interview takes place. The focal point is to document the individual mental maps of the participants, and how these differ, by using maps, sketches, photos, drawings, recorded conversations etc. The project team tries to find out how topographical aspects of the urban are warped which leads to a construction of local topological elements. Due to the memories of the interviewed, her/his movement with public transport, and due to her/his perception during the trip on the “other” side a general concept of Nicosia’s urban space is distorted, gets a personal note.
Presenting the Process

The project team proposes a nomad exhibition space, which is initially located in the buffer zone next to Ledra Palace.

Two municipal city buses, one from each side of Nicosia, are parked next to each other with three metres in-between. This space is equipped to host incoming data from the bus trips. The space in-between is covered with a tent, and a table and chairs invite people to spend time and share the collected information. The formal aspect of the exhibition is rather flexible, reflecting the unpredictability of the present politics between Cyprus’ Turkish and Greek administration.

The presence of the municipal buses would help reflect this situation. Therefore, the space in-between is designed to work as a physical space if both buses are parked there, or just
as a mental/imagery space if one of the two is missing. The nomad exhibition space can be transferred to other locations depending on the needs of the project.

Copyright of the images by the "Call # 192" project group and their interviewed partners.
A bus trip on the "other side" of Nicosia
Age of interviewer: 30

Date of trip: Saturday, 22nd
Duration of bus ride: 1 hour, start at 13:30, finish at 14:30

Name of the person who interviewed the "Call # 192" project team:

**THE MUSIC AS PART OF THE PUBLICNESS OF THE CITY**

**REFERENCES TO RELIGIOUS MUSIC HEARD IN PUBLIC**

**MUSIC IN THE PUBLIC BUS**

Admitting that we get used to listen to the religious music from the mosques, is it though that we get used to pervert urban conditions?

- War barriers
- Dead end roads
- Military

**WHERE IS THE NORTH??**

**FIRST IMPRESSION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

**THE COLORS**

Here is the North!!!
Here is the North!!!

**PENDADACTYLOS MOUNTAIN**

It is like Anthoupolis references to urban landscapes of Nicosia periphery