

Thinking Greece: Thinking Futures: Urmadic University HotHouse 3

Greece is historically unique. It is Europe. And Balkans. And East. And West. A territory that keeps shifting its borders in all directions – this over the past 2500 years. And currently it seems to be nowhere. Here is a country with a history that has formed the histories of other nations and that has been reformed by exclusion and demarcation. A culture carrying a philosophical tradition that created the problem of western metaphysics, globalism and colonialism and currently is the victim of its own creation. Above all, Greece is an exemplary society facing a conceded collapse.

Yet in the moment of an ending the beginning demands to be faced.

The situation in Greece is obviously of concern to the people of the nation in numerous ways – economically, culturally, existentially and so on. But it is equally a felt concern for many other people globally as the plight of the nation is understood as symptomatic of far wider problems at the end of modernity. These are problems such as the complete loss of credibility of evolutionary and emancipatory narratives including ‘development’, ‘progress’, and ‘sustainability’. What the recent history of Greece exposes is that while the powerful and the privileged will continually strive to retain their power and privileges, they are fundamentally failing to deal with the issues that are deciding the fate of humanity (and much else): planetary destruction, a climate heading toward, perhaps already in, chaos and an ever growing volume of displaced people worldwide; increasing the spread and growth of asymmetrical warfare as a feature of late-modern life.

The intent of ‘hothouse’ 3 is to bring together a dynamic collection of people from Greece and around the world in order to confront these issues in a structured way; this conversation will be grounded in the identification and elaboration of local agendas.

The event cannot simply be an interesting discussion or a search for a savoir. Rather its ambition has to liberate thinking that is able to begin reversing those principles linked to a Eurocentric model of making the world that is now embedded in globalism and in so doing think, and initiate, specific projects from which beginnings and directions can grow.

For the above to occur, the ‘hothouse’ will be an intensive four-day event. **The first day of the event will require briefings and dialogue; the focus of the second day will be on project ideas, evaluation and selection; and, the remaining two days will focus on project development and presentations.**

This HotHouse is an Urmadic University project – this university is an institution without a place in formation. Each year it moves (year one was in Brisbane, year two in Paris. However, HotHouse 3 is different: rather than talking about problems to be faced it is being situated in a problem.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Hothouse is taking place June 27-30, 2013

At **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece-School of Architecture**

Expressions of interest in participation in the event are invited from:

1. Disenfranchised Greek intellectuals/designers of all ages disenchanting by the current local status quo interested in new thinking and critical practices (limited to 20 places)
2. Members of the Urmadic University Network (limited to 20 places)

Place numbers are open to revision (based on the volume of expressions received/selection)

To express interest please supply:

- Name
- Age
- Gender
- Contact details
- Employment status
- If employed: Institution/Employer/Position

Plus Statement of Interest in the event and what you believe you could contribute (word limit 300 words)

Email to : e.kalantidou@griffith.edu.au By **April 15th**

Selection will be based on the creation of a diverse group and the nature of the statement presented. Selection will be made by members of the Urmadic University and of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Architecture. Those selected will be notified by: **April 29th**

Additional considerations

- Travel by your own arrangements
- Refreshments will be provided
- Accommodation - a list of budget and standard priced hotels will be supplied

A pre-event briefing will be provided to the selected participants.