

# #ThisIsACo\_op

Greek Pavilion  
15th International Architecture Exhibition  
La Biennale di Venezia

Association of Greek Architects



la Biennale di Venezia

15. Mostra  
Internazionale  
di Architettura  
Partecipazioni Nazionali

Pavilion of Greece At the 15th International Architecture Exhibition  
La Biennale di Venezia

##### The Refugee Crisis: Industry vs Solidarity #####

**#ThisIsACo-op** is hosting discussions, encounters and events in an amphitheatrical structure that serves as a receptacle of dialogue and a symbol of participation and community. The Greek Pavilion is a natural meeting place for architects, Associations, social movements and socially-minded individuals from Greece and the international community seeking solutions to the common fronts engendered by the crisis.

Given the different dimensions and complexity of the topic, as well as the necessity to understand the new spatial conditions of the current crisis, **#ThisIsACo-op** aims to set the grounds for an interdisciplinary approach on the matter. A dialogue which includes different fields of research and knowledge and invites people with different backgrounds.

In this context, the Greek Pavilion will host a series of two complementary plenary sessions on the subject of the refugee crisis on the 25th-26th June, aiming to explore the two systems structured around it: the industry created by the imposed EU policies and the solidarity practices offering different ways of inclusion, which also make use of abandoned spaces.

**Saturday 25th June**

**Greek Pavilion, Giardini | 12.00**

**ALTERNATIVE NARRATIONS ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS** (*Syneleusis*)

Through their research, journalists **Katerina Stavroula** (The Migrant Files) and **Apostolis Fotiadis** will unfold how Europe's immigration policies prioritize emergency measures, thus sustaining a profitable market of surveillance and security systems and reinforcing the defence industry. They will explain how the reluctance of fortress Europe to actively participate in the solution-making process also conceals an intention to exploit the refugee flows and to establish the need for new markets in the countries involved.

**Nikolaos Vasilopoulos**, member of the Refugee Accommodation Space **City Plaza** in Athens, will offer some useful insights on the existent trajectories and the direct impact of the above mentioned policies on people's lives.

Guest Speakers: **Katerina Stavroula, Apostolis Fotiadis, Nikolaos Vasilopoulos.**

Coordinators: Dafni Papadopoulou, Maria Sereti.

**Sunday 26th June**

**Greek Pavilion, Giardini I 15:00**

**EUROPE AS A PLACE TO BE INHABITED: LINKING IMMIGRATION AND (THE CASES OF) ABANDONED SPACES** (*Syneleusis*)

**Edoardo Salzano** and **Paolo Dignatici** will discuss the existent and potential ways to address the refugees' and migrants' needs, examining the trajectories of the moving population from their countries of origin to their final destination, if existing. In this inclusion process, the two-fold term of "void" could seem useful: the void seen both as a spatial condition (abandoned buildings or entire areas) and as gaps and lacks in financial and social terms and processes, as well.

Through the paradigm of City Plaza, **Nikolaos Vasilopoulos** will analyze the potentials of self-managed solidarity structures. **Fotini Georgakopoulou**, participant of **#ThisIsACo-op**, will talk about her experience as a member of the NGO Voluntary Work of Athens, working with Kurdish refugees who squatted abandoned houses in the beginning of the '00s, and will attempt to draw a parallel with the current situation.

**Stefano Ferro**, the spokesman of "**Padova Accoglie**", will illustrate the activities of this initiative of solidarity: "Padova Accoglie" runs several participatory socio-economic projects among local communities and migrants in order to offer hospitality to the latter, taking advantage of redundant buildings and the network of associations existing on the provincial territory.

Skype Teleconference with **Gianna De Masi**, Town Councilor for Cultural, Equal Opportunities, Peace and Migrants Policies of the municipality Rivalta di Torino.

Guest Speakers: **Edoardo Salzano, Paolo Dignatici, Stefano Ferro, Fotini Georgakopoulou, Gianna De Masi** (via Skype), **Nikolaos Vasilopoulos**.

Coordinators: Ilaria Boniburini, Dafni Papadopoulou, Filippomaria Pontani, Maria Sereti.

**#ThisIsACo-op** | Greek Pavilion, 15th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

**Exhibition duration** | 28 May – 27 November 2016

**Location** | Giardini, Venice, Italy

**Commissioner** | Ministry of Environment and Energy, General Secretary of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment, Eirini Klampatsea




**Curator** | Association of Greek Architects, SADAS-PEA

#### **Info**

The Association of Greek Architects was established in 1922 in Athens. The Association's mission is to promote, disseminate and preserve architecture in Greece, as well as to safeguard the interests of its members. The Association's agenda includes promoting the industry's distinctive professional identity, protecting architects' professional rights and developing a nationwide organisation.

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