

#ThisIsACo_op

Greek Pavilion
15th International Architecture Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia

Association of Greek Architects



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

Public-open spaces as common goods – A park for all at Hellinikon

#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. **#ThisIsACo-op** aspires to make an impact through a series of discussions, meetings, workshops and proposals, inviting the international architectural community and the public to be actively involved and collaborate.

One of the most important issues of the Greek cities concerns the future of the public-open spaces. Public open spaces reflect the crisis of the Greek society: human alienation, lack of collectiveness, lack of culture, consumerism. They form a special type of no man's land.

In the context of the crisis, the citizens of Greece re-discover the public-open spaces and lay claim to them as common goods. Citizens' groups, neighborhood initiatives and local collectivities actively appropriate public space and use it in various ways. Collective practices adopted give rise to a wide range of potentialities and perspectives for the public space, based on an alternative model of social relations, production processes and spatial structures for the Greek cities, a model in which public-open spaces are considered a common good.

In the context of the crisis "fronts" of resistance have been formed recently against the plans of privatization, disinvestment and over-building of public spaces. The site of the former airport of Hellinikon is the last big open-public space left in Athens and one of the most crucial "fronts".

The topic of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia is "Reporting from the front". As we pointed out there exist not just one but multiple "fronts" and among them is defending public spaces against privatization and commercialization. Especially the "front" against privatization and the selling-off of public land and ownership consists a wider European and global "front".

Our contribution to the 15th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia intends to project this very resistance against the selling-off of the site of Hellinikon and to present an alternative proposal about it. We claim that the site of Hellinikon should be gradually converted into a public Metropolitan Park, reusing the existing buildings in-loco for cultural, sporting and social activities in general, a Park giving open access to all the inhabitants and visitors of Attica Region, a Park ensuring the opportunity for participation in management to cooperative groups and self-managed initiatives.

Sunday 25th September
Greek Pavilion, Giardini | 11.00

A. Opening speech

B. Speakers / Projections:

1. "(Public) Space as a common good"
Dr. Stavros Stavrides, architect (Assoc. Prof. School of Architecture, NTUA, Greece)
2. "Public-Free Spaces, Common Goods - A Park for All at Hellinikon"
Projection of the 10 min. video by the "Group of Architects for Hellinikon"
3. "The public space in Greece in jeopardy - The 'front' of Hellinikon"
Anna Karapa - Lavassa, Natassa Tsironi, architects (Group of Architects for Hellinikon)
4. "The Plan by FOSTER: A Private Town at Hellinikon"
Projection of the 5 min. video / Power Point by the «Dimotiki Synergasia Hellinikon Argyroupolis»
5. "From "Public" to "Common": The case of Hellinikon"
Konstantinos Savvidis - Panos Totsikas, architects (Group of Architects for Hellinikon)
6. "Remarks by SADAS-PEA*- Dept of Attica on the Hellinikon issue"
Antonis Maounis, architect (chairman of SADAS-PEA*-Dept of Attica)
*Association of Greek Architects - Panhellenic Union of Architects

C. Questions- Remarks – Discussion

Organized by: "Group of Architects for Hellinikon"

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#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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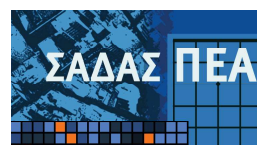
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