



Summer Workshop 2019

Crafted Space_ A Hybrid Structure in Platres Village

Scope of the Workshop

The workshop will provide a platform for an immersive cooperation between young architects and students of architecture in a hands-on, design-built workshop. Emphasis will be placed on making. Design will manifest through the process of physical testing ranging from the scale of individual component and joint to assemblage, to the whole and back again, in a cyclical process towards refinement. Making and physical testing will be the main activity of the workshop, while drawing and designing will be utilised as a continuous tool throughout the duration of the workshop as a means of pinpointing arising construction issues brought forth by the ongoing, hands-on development.

Beyond the emphasis on making, aspects of materiality, the environment, programmatic performance and human well-being will also be considered. Design of the structure will be prepared beforehand. Details and joints will be proposed and developed based on an integration of manual and digitally fabricated joinery and fabrication techniques. Proposals for the display of information about Platres village may also be considered during the workshop but production and installation of these elements will take place at a later stage.

Construction Materials and Building Technology

The workshop is a springboard for testing, reinterpreting and applying construction techniques from the wealth of folk knowhow, infused with more recent technological advances.

The structure will utilise wood as the main material with the additional use of masonry to form the base of the intervention. While the design, synthesis and fabrication of the structure will utilize digital technology, the intention of the workshop is to combine digital thinking with simple joinery methods. For this purpose the construction and detailing process will also test the application of Japanese joinery techniques.

Responding to the needs of the Local Community

The Mukthar of Platres is interested in creating a walking trail for visitors and tourists, which signposts the attraction points and interesting buildings in the village. He is particularly interested in showcasing the buildings of the British Colonial period. This site is considered as a starting point or location on this walking path which provides data about the history of the site giving information about the monuments, historic events and buildings. The Mukthar would like the site to facilitate the display of this information and also expressed preference for the exposed concrete wall on the site to be partly treated or screened from view.

Proposed Functions of the Intervention

The proposed structure will act as an information and meeting point and for both the community as well as for visitors. It will display information regarding routes, points of interest and historic information about the village as well as facilitating the posting of events and community announcements. As the site offers pleasant views of nature,

it will also accommodate a shaded resting area, offering short-term seating, zen views and nature meditation. It may accommodate small roadside selling for local produce. The structure will act as a reference for the community by both sitting comfortably in its environment, as well as differentiating appropriately to become an iconic and a recognisable element.

The Site

The site is situated in Platres, a mountainside village on the Troodos mountain range. Historically the village was a popular resort during the British colonial period which has left a rich heritage of colonial buildings scattered around the village. As with many of the mountain communities, livelihood was traditionally based on agriculture, but nowadays relies more on its attraction of natural beauty and temperate its climate. The local resident population is very small, while the influx of visitors and holidaymakers turn it into a bustling town during weekends and the summer period.

The site is located adjacent to a winding road, relatively close to the central area of Platres. The strip of land is bound on one side by a vehicular route and an exposed concrete retaining wall on the other side. The site hosts six young Platanus trees and has an inclined topography. The surrounding buildings are sparse. The site offers distant views and a shady stopping point, it can be characterised as more of a thoroughfare rather than a destination point. The site offers good opportunities for redefinition.

Construction Strategy

MATERIAL	CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY	REFERENCE FROM TRADITION · ENVIRONMENT · LOCAL KNOWHOW	PERFORMANCE · FUNCTION · SIGNIFICANCE
Stone + steel mesh (gabbions)	Masonry construction, mass elements, foundations	Regional mortar-less masonry construction for retaining walls. Locally sourced building materials	Foundation, land forming, landscaping. Transitioning from existing land to new insertion
Pinewood joists + wood planks + plywood	Japanese wood joinery, nail-less connections, wood truss/space frame balloon system (stick and surface)	Traditional wood joinery, contemporary adaptations	Vertical (wall) systems, load-bearing facilitating and adapting to shifting functions, wind-breaker

Indicative Schedule

*A more detailed daily schedule will be provided at a later date

JULY	ACTIVITY
Tues. 02	Introduction to the site and programme, discussion about the provided drawings and details through sketches and rough models: individual components and overall arrangements Preparation and planning of site work
Wed. 03	Selection/ Allocation of joinery methods – assigned groups /preparation of prototypes and tests at local wood workshop.
Thur. 04 Fri. 05	Fabrication at the local wood workshop, and partial assembly (prefabrication) of modules, ready to be transported for onsite erection. Groundwork will happen in parallel on-site. On site production and testing
Sat. 06	Assessing structure, improving component design, refining ideas and strategies. Sketches and models of varied joinery and components developed. Refining and finalising required one-to-one production and assemblage
Sun. 07*	No Activities
Mon. 08 Tues. 09 Wed. 10	Completion of masonry groundwork. Fabrication at the local wood workshop, and partial assembly (prefabrication) of modules, ready to be transported for onsite erection on Partial on-site assembly/testing of prefabricated components.
Thurs. 11	On-site assembly/erection of prefabricated components. Attachment, detailing, clearing & landscaping
Fri. 12	Final assembly Inauguration party

*Accommodation will be offered from Monday to Friday. Saturday will function as a working day but with limited or maybe no access to the timber workshop. As there is no accommodation provided on Saturday and Sunday evening students will have no assigned activities on Sunday.

Participants

- The workshop can host 25-30 students or young architects
- Accommodation and half-board provided without cost by Platres Community Council to the Hotel Forest Park
- €60 Participation Fee
- Submission Date until **10 June 2019**
- Announcement - Eligible participants **13 June 2019**
- Payment fees until **18 June 2019**

Instructors

The design team is made up of six faculty members of the University of Nicosia. Two faculty will be present on each day of the workshop.

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