

Contested Fronts is an exploration of architecture's role for commoning practices in ethnically and socially contested spaces.

Palazzo Malipiero, Campo San Samuele,
3198 San Marco, Venice

Contested Fronts

Commoning Practices for Conflict Transformation



**Cyprus
pavilion**

Palazzo
Malipiero

28.05 - 27.11



Organizers



MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND
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ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ
CYPRUS ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION

Contested Fronts is an exploration of architecture's role for commoning practices in ethnically and socially contested spaces.

It focuses on the agencies of the ad-hoc technologies of architecture that contribute to conflict transformation by advocating reconciliation processes to go hand in hand with urban reconstruction processes. *Contested Fronts* introduces three levels of investigation of the frontiers where architecture claims an active role: geopolitical, disciplinary, and everyday urban politics' frontiers. To achieve this, it concentrates on the agencies of ad-hoc technology materiality and use that encourage the emergence of collectives, with their members coming from areas across divides. Ad-hoc technology involves means of spatial engagement, cartographic representation and visual communication. It assists the tactful organization of physical spaces and events.

To build a decisive critical mass of resistance to the dominant trends of post conflict reconstruction.

Contested Fronts is an open source built around the *Hands-on Famagusta* project, i.e. a collective platform for reconciliation through the creation of common urban imaginaries across the Cypriot divide. The *Contested Fronts Open Source Archive* includes international practices, networks, and pedagogical programs, which are complementary to the *Hands-on Famagusta* project, to build a decisive critical mass of resistance to the dominant trends of post conflict reconstruction: *Archis Interventions SEE, Build Up, City Repairo, Institute of Threshold, Mapping Controversies, Passages*. It addresses two major challenges emerging from the case of Famagusta: first, the operation in actually hostile environments where institutions produce narratives based on division; second, the confrontation of actual trends of post conflict reconstruction processes based either on large scale segregating private developments or on inflexible bureaucratic, non-transparent produced plans, both unable to encourage commoning practices or handle the ever changing contested urban environments.

Preventing Famagusta to be the next divided city of Cyprus?

The *Contested Fronts Open Source Archive* starts from Famagusta and not from Nicosia, well known for its divided status, because it could contribute to the prevention of Famagusta becoming the next divided city of Cyprus.

Famagusta is a Cypriot coastal city, located on the eastern edge of the island, just north of the UN cease fire military zone, and east of one of the UK military bases on the island. Famagusta inhabitants are Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. However, since the 1974 war with Turkey the city has been deprived of its Greek Cypriot inhabitants who were displaced to the southern part of the island during the war. The Famagusta population was 38,960 inhabitants in 1973, of which 31,960 were Greek Cypriots and 7,000 Turkish Cypriots. The population in 2011 was 37,939 inhabitants consisting of Turkish Cypriots (some of them displaced from the south part of the island in 1974) and settlers from Turkey. Famagusta consists of all kinds of enclaves with the most notorious one being the Turkish army controlled ghost area of Famagusta. It is an abandoned urban area, located by a beautiful sandy shore, which used to house around 30,000 Greek Cypriots. A French/Venetian walled city is situated further north, very close to a university enclave.

There are indications that, in the framework of the Cyprus Federal State, the south part of the city will be under the Greek Cypriot territory and its north part will be under the Turkish Cypriot territory. Such scenario is part of the United Nations on-going negotiations between the two community leaders who strive for agreement and hopefully keeping Turkey out of the north part of the island, where it has had an overwhelming control since 1974. During the last couple of years, the *Hands-on Famagusta* project team has raised awareness on the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Famagustians' split mental maps that may lead to city partition. It has provided alternatives towards a unified city, influencing the on-going debate about the city future across the divide.

The Hands-on Famagusta project Contribution to the Contested Fronts Open Source Archive

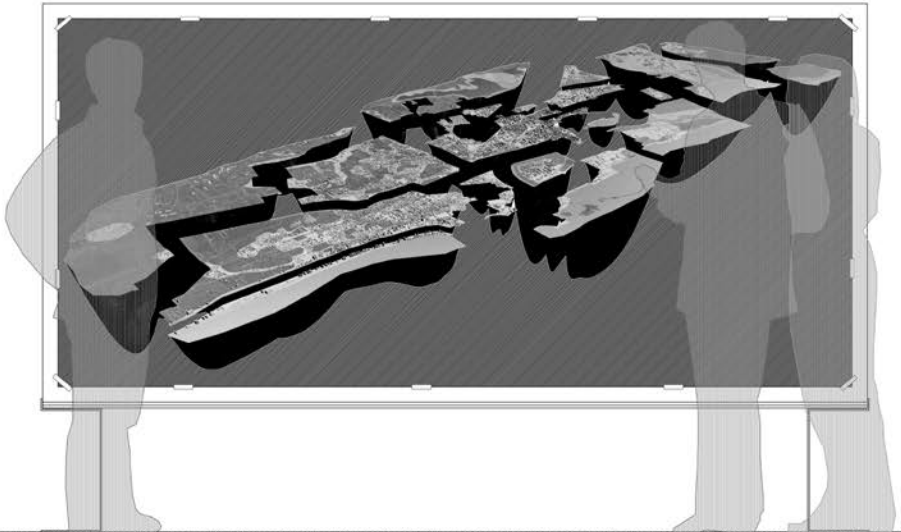
The *Hands-on Famagusta* project is built on an interactive digital interface, www.hands-onfamagusta.org, roundtable workshops, and a transportable model of the city. The digital interface is an interactive web platform which hosts a smart archive that advocates the commons of a unified Famagusta by introducing a playful mode of designerly knowledge exchange. It introduces modes of reconciliation deep into potential urban reconstruction processes.

The *Contested Fronts Open Source Archive* hosts the ad-hoc technologies of the *Hands-on Famagusta* project: roundtables, isometric drawings of a severely fragmented city, a transportable city model, a cardboard stencil with the cut-out of an action pigeon-the project's logo, a digital interactive interface about a smart archive for the urban commons, stickers about strategies that introduce the urban commons, etc.

Commoning processes evolved about a round table in Nicosia's buffer zone. Another one took place in the streets of Nicosia and

Famagusta thanks to a graffiti stencil and to urban games designed by students of the University of Cyprus. Another one took place in an architectural office in Nicosia and addressed the challenge of transforming an ethnically conflictual divided Famagusta into a multi fragmented city to become common concern. Another one took place at the ground floor of the Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus and extended all the way to the Ledra street checkpoint. A last one took place in Saints Peter's and Paul's Cathedral in Famagusta thanks to the exhibited city model.

The *Contested Fronts Open Source Archive* builds on the methodological approach of the *Hands-on Famagusta* project to make explicit three processes that are behind commoning practices for conflict transformation: *Counter-mapping, Creating Thresholds and Introducing Urban Controversies*. The three processes are the organizing parts of the exhibition at Palazzo Malipiero, where the ad-hoc technology of the *Hands-on Famagusta* project is both archived and exhibited, together with the work of the international participants.



What if mapping creates problematization against dominant divisive mental geographies?

The Hands-on Famagusta project (AA&U for Architecture, Art and Urbanism, Imaginary Famagusta, Laboratory of Urbanism, University of Cyprus - L.U2.CY)



Counter-mapping involves the practice of mapping as a means of problematization for the civil society to question dominant, divisive, mental geographies. It involves cartographic processes that allow new viewpoints of common concern, by formulating new questions in regard to the embedded status quo of division.

The **Hands-on Famagusta** project's counter-mapped ad-hoc technologies are about large size printed isometric drawings of the city's fragmented territory, a transportable city model and board games.

They have been used to encourage the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Famagustians to go beyond their split mental maps by firstly becoming aware of a severely fragmented urban environment and secondly by having the chance to see for the first time their city territory represented as a continuum of extensive landscapes consisting of built and non-built areas. The processes of cartographic documentation as well as that of creating and using the ad-hoc technology have created collectives consisting of members coming from areas across the Cypriot divide.

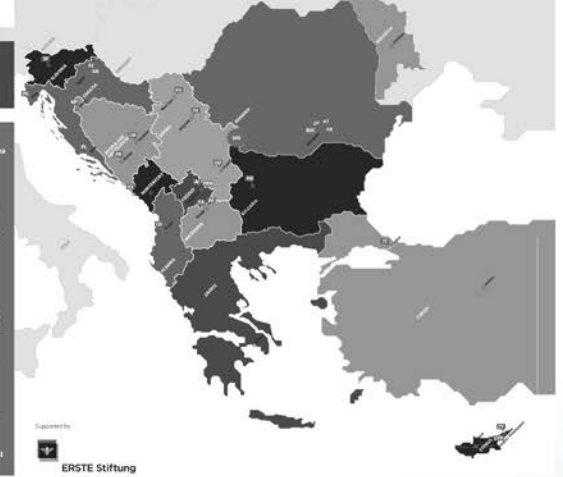
International Participants Networks, Practices and Pedagogical Programs

1 Build Up

Build Up is a social enterprise active at the intersection of technology, civic engagement, and peace-building. They support grassroots innovation, they foster collaboration and have a strong, grounded understanding of peace-building. They have run programs on the ground in conflict and post-conflict countries across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. They facilitate research, design, and implementation of technological tools and methodologies in participatory processes around peace-building, conflict prevention, and civic engagement.

Participatory design and empowerment through engagement in social change are at the core of their approach. With experience in local governments and policy-making institutions, they help navigate the pathways by which citizens and organizations can effect

| ARCHIS INTERVENTIONS PROJECTS | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| SEE | network |
| PHN | Prishtina |
| BUC | Bucharest |
| CYP | Cyprus |
| INITIATIVES | |
| AI | Archis Interventions - Prishtina |
| CP | Co-PLAN |
| ES | EXPERIAD - Centre for Sustainable Spatial Development |
| FX | FLUX |
| KU | New Media Centre, kuja.org |
| PE | practice and project space |
| PL | Platforma 3.03 - Institute for Research in Architecture |
| PG | Public Group |
| PH | Place in good - Right to the City |
| SD | Urban-Rural and Recycling Design |
| UR | Under Recycling |
| SP | Institute for public practice / Institute for Politics of Space |
| AD | ADAPtations |
| AN | Anting |
| AT | ATU - Association for Urban Transition |
| ZP | Zeynep Association |
| NP | Novi Puc, Bihar |
| FR | FRONTAL, Bucharest |
| CY | Archis Interventions - Cyprus |
| AB | Abart, Maastricht |
| FA | First Archi Brigade / The Archi Brigade, Shropshire Interventions - Istanbul |



2 Archis Interventions Southeastern Europe Network

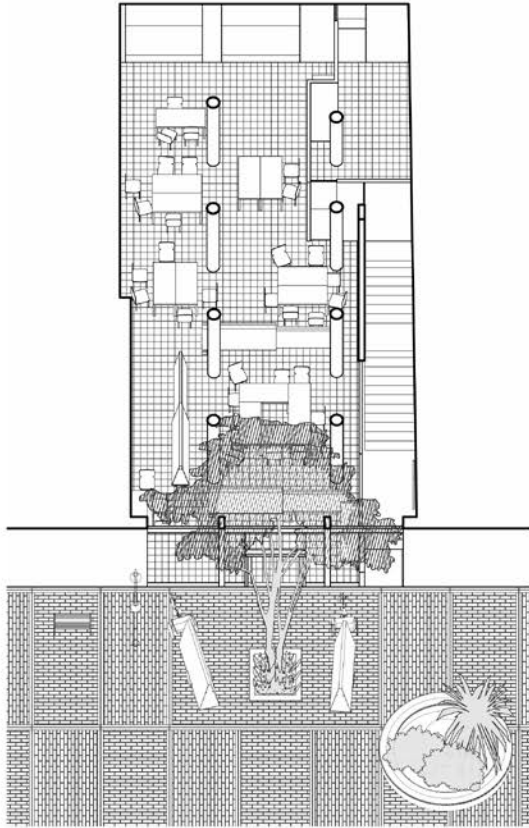
The aim of Archis Interventions, a community-based, non-profit offshoot of Archis is to support cities by supplying ideas and concepts that will help to revitalize public space and renew faith in public dialogue. Main focus of the work of Archis Interventions is post-conflict planning. Local partners play the main roles in the process, since they are the ones requesting intervention in the development of their city www.archis.org. The activities of Archis Interventions in southeastern Europe began in 2005, when Kai Vöckler and his Kosovar colleagues founded a local branch in Prishtina (Archis Interventions/Prishtina). A network of independent urban initiatives and organizations in southeastern Europe was launched in 2008 by Kai Vöckler, in cooperation with Srdjan Jovanović Weiss.

In almost all large cities in southeastern Europe, there exist independent urban initiatives that use their expert knowledge and experience to defend the interests of civic stakeholders. Such initiatives often work in isolation from one another or have only limited opportunities to participate in international urban discourse on new urban development, and planning methods and concepts. The aim of the Archis Interventions SEE network is to network regionally, develop international cooperation projects, share past experience, transfer relevant knowledge, and, last but not least, strengthen local initiatives by embedding them in supra-regional networks.



What if territories of exclusion open up to the city's commons through practices of exchange?

The Hands-on Famagusta project (AA&U for Architecture, Art and Urbanism, Imaginary Famagusta, Laboratory of Urbanism, University of Cyprus - LUCY)



Creating Thresholds is about practices of exchange across edges, transforming limits to porous borders, instigating for the opening up of territories of exclusion to the city's commons—services and programs, transport infrastructures and networks, physical spaces. It is about strategic and tactful actions that introduce spaces of exchange, based on transformative themes for urban regeneration and hands-on actions for reconciliation.

The ad-hoc technologies of the **Hands-on Famagusta** project for creating thresholds are:

Four transformative themes incubated in a summer workshop in Nicosia They are the motor of the *Hands-on Famagusta* project team to make explicit the need for common urban imaginaries beyond the ethnically contested city. They are about: **1** sharing infrastructures, **2** creating a wide public waterfront, **3** turning the future of the ecological and cultural assets of the city into a common concern, **4** resisting the absence of the city commons during the extraordinary conditions of post-conflict reconstruction processes.

A matrix of disenclaving strategies together with urban design projects The disenclaving approach is about strategies that on the one hand introduce the city commons into urban enclaves, and, on the other hand, embed reconciliation processes deep into potential reconstruction processes. They are both introduced in the pedagogical approach of the Urban Design Studio at the Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus.

Used graffiti stencils of the action pigeon logo and urban games Creating temporal communities around the practice of making graffiti through a playful urban engagement across urban edges.

The Found-in Translation project The ad-hoc technology for creating thresholds extends into practices of exchange between members of the two communities in conflict (Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot), during the collective process of translation of the *Hands-on Famagusta* web platform from English into Greek and Turkish.

International Participants Networks, Practices and Pedagogical Programs

1 Institute of Threshold: Border Infrastructures

It is a process of long engagement of a fictional institute of border infrastructures that will serve to archive and connect rhizomatically with the current conditions of conflict territories and related practices. What will happen if the border is removed, not existing anymore? Or, are already borders a liquid and fluid zone? What could be the autonomous infrastructure of conflict zones? The proposal of the *Institute of Threshold* is about reactivating these questions in order to create a speculative, realistic approach of the function and spatial contradictions of border infrastructure. Cyprus as a contested borderland in the Mediterranean Sea is surrounded by refugee/migrant flow, civil war, sea patrols, and liquid military control. As a starting point, the *Institute of Threshold* provides questions of conditions covering the mapping and constellation of surrounding zones and passing corridors in east Mediterranean. Urban warfare, destroyed and curfews siege towns, border crossings and nomadic dwelling point out the era of post-human condition. We want to articulate with ongoing cases of a conceptual framework of decay, autonomy, infrastructure, decolonization, and forms of non-belonging.



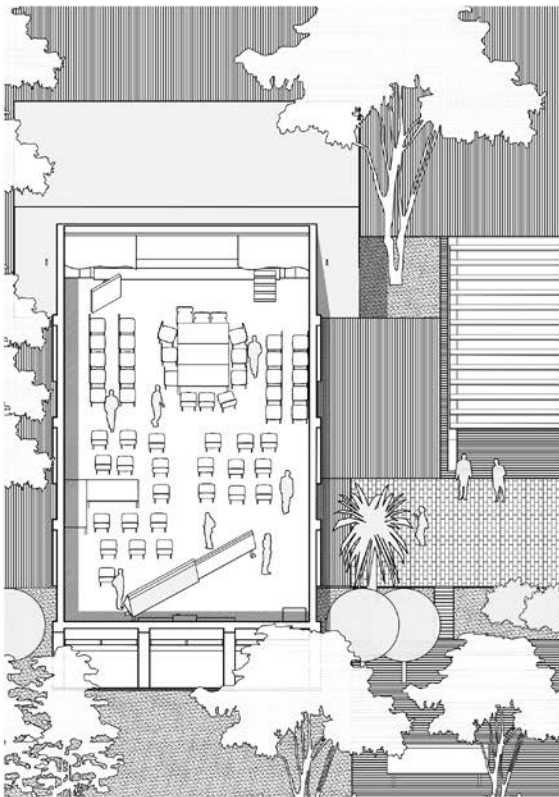
2 Passages

With the launch of the international and multi-partner *Passages* program, aimed at professionals and the general public alike, *City on the Move* is seeking to emphasize the role of passages as essential links in our journeys around the city. For two years (2014-2015), a network of international experts worked to develop research and scientific, cultural, and artistic events on this theme. Given that passages have always been present in our cities in different forms, why today in particular? How do we do full justice to these essential and yet often neglected connections? What are the potential avenues for development and innovation available to these small mobility spaces? As an interdisciplinary IVM action-research project, the *Passages* program includes the implementation of real innovative demonstration passages in different cities around the world.



What if controversy becomes a transformative device of conflict towards the making of city's commons?

The Hands-on Famagusta project (AA&U for Architecture, Art and Urbanism, Imaginary Famagusta, Laboratory of Urbanism, University of Cyprus - L.U2.CY)



The **Hands-on Famagusta** project's ad-hoc technology for urban controversies is a web-platform consisting of three pools of designerly knowledge about controversial questions in regards to the role of the city's commons during post conflict urban reconstruction — *Actors and Agendas, Other Cities, Urban Design Projects*. The web-platform operation is supported by a series of board games that transform the controversial questions into playful negotiations and re-alliances amongst the game players. The pool of *Actors and Agendas* is formulated during off-line activities such as roundtable workshops and consultation meetings between the *Hands-on Famagusta* project team and Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot Famagustians. The pool of *Other Cities* shows concrete examples from other urban areas relevant to the Famagusta's controversial questions. The pool of *Urban Design Projects* consists of students' projects about Famagusta's future produced by the Urban Design Studio of the University of Cyprus (part of L.U2.CY's activities) and by the School of Architecture, KTH, Stockholm. The same pool includes also Urban Design references that are inscribed in the creation of the city's commons.

Introducing Urban Controversies has to do with the unfolding of the positive aspect of conflict within the making of the architectural and urban projects where the urban actors are in constant re-alliance and dispute. Disputes in regard to the role of the commons during post-conflict reconstruction or urban regeneration could be well structured, creating arenas of creative confrontation amongst urban actors with divergent agendas. Urban actors across divides would have the possibility to re-ally beyond their ethnic identity or social status. Emerging collectives of heterogeneous actors could be the protagonists in transforming ethnic and social conflicts.

International Participants Networks, Practices and Pedagogical Programs



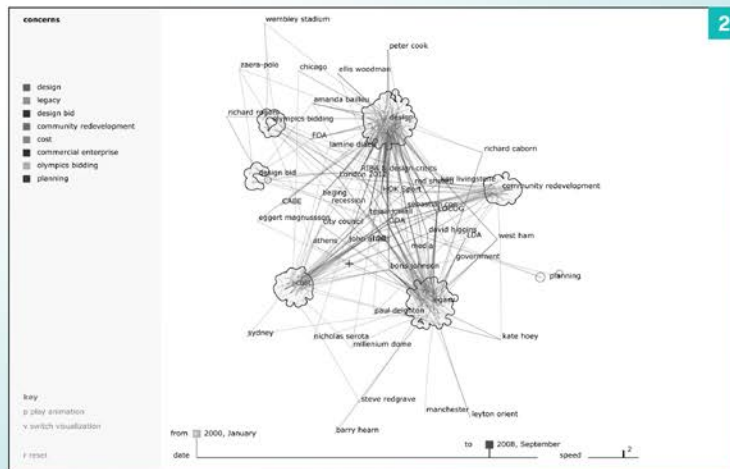
1 City Repairo

City Repairo is a multidisciplinary consultancy working with the social, public and private sectors on city transformations in the built environment. It is a social enterprise comprising a range of practitioners from architectural, urban design, planning and social science backgrounds. A primary focus of City Repairo is urban structure and, more particularly, how the form and layout of cities affect the everyday experience and life chances of local communities. In the context of contested urban space, City Repairo advances the Jane Jacobs notion that the city should be everyone's neighborhood.

2 Mapping Architectural Controversies

Mapping Architectural Controversies (MAC) is an interactive website dedicated to students and researchers working on controversies surrounding design projects, buildings, master plans, and urban and development issues. Documenting and visualizing recent controversies in architecture, it also aims to address a broader audience interested in the design of cities, spatial networks and built environments as well as planners, representatives of city government, NGOs and citizens. Originally based on the EU-funded project MACOSPOL, Mapping Architectural Controversies draws on a variety of documental sources and visual methods to explore the multifarious connections of architecture and society. Mapping Controversies comprises a research method, a teaching philosophy and a way to approach public debates. The platform serves as a database on controversies related to a variety of topics from Science, Technology, Innovation, Design and Urban Planning, provides tutorial guidance to the Mapping Controversies teaching and learning methods and their relevance to architectural studies, and showcases some initiatives in enhancing the public understanding of controversies.

Why Controversies? Nowadays, we are confronted more and more with uncertain architectural knowledge concerning the latest innovations in engineering and building construction together with the changing demands of clients and communities. This causes us to become embroiled in various controversies surrounding architecture and urban design, which reshuffle the multifarious connections between architecture and society.



Commissioner

Petros Dimiotis, Ministry of Education and Culture

Deputy Commissioner

Hesperia Iliadou

Curator

Socrates Stratis

Participants

The *Hands-on Famagusta* project by AA&U for Architecture, Art and Urbanism, Imaginary Famagusta, Laboratory of Urbanism University of Cyprus – L.U2.CY

International participants

Archis Interventions SEE, Build Up, City Reparo, Institute of Threshold, Mapping Controversies, Passages

Collaborators

AA&U For Architecture Art and Urbanism, Imaginary Famagusta, Laboratory of Urbanism, University of Cyprus – L.U2.CY: Angeliki Koutsodimitropoulou architect, visual communication designer, Chrysanthe Constantinou architect, urban designer, Emre Akbil architect, Senior Lecturer, Esra Can Akbil architect, Senior Instructor, Maria Loizidou visual artist, Munevver Ozgur architect, Assistant Professor, Andreas Petrou light design, Marina Constantinidou film footage, Light Black web development, Studio Folder graphic design.

Support

Lara Anna Scharf, Eleftheria Xerou, Bertug Ozarisoy, Nasia Pantelidou, Antigoni Chrysostomou, Cansu Denizhan, Anastasia Demetriou, Eleni Nicolaou, Elena Kapakiotou

Technical Support

Yiorgos Vesiariis laser cutting – University of Cyprus, Marinou Kleantous metal structures

The Hands-on Famagusta project

AA&U for Architecture, Art and Urbanism, Imaginary Famagusta, Laboratory of Urbanism University of Cyprus – L.U2.CY, Cyprus: Socrates Stratis, Emre Akbil, Chrysanthe Constantinou, Esra Can Akbil, Maria Loizidou, Angeliki Koutsodimitropoulou, Munevver Ozgur Ozersay. For a detailed list of the contributors to the Hands-on Famagusta project, see <http://handsonfamagusta.org/about-the-project>

Students' projects of the Laboratory of Urbanism, University of Cyprus – L.U2.CY

Encouraging Urbanity Game Projects, (E.U. o8 Game)

Paola Franco, Laura Moral, Pablo Palomares, Pany Valtoudi, Andria Georgiou, Ioanna Demetriou, Evdokia Kyriakidou, Eva Constantinou, Stavroula Michael, Anna Panayiotou, Erasimia Papallou, Anastasia Prodromou, Louiza Tsiarlistou, Rafaella Christophi, Eleni Koufopavliou, Elpida Kyriakou, Andreas Mpirros, Eleni Nicolaou, Leandros Panousopoulos, Lenia Pachi, Laoura Tzourrou, Sofia Christodoulou.

Urban Design Projects

Winter Semester 2014-15

Tutors: Socrates Stratis, Chrysanthe Constantinou
Paola Antoniou, Despina Vasari, Anastasia Demetriou, Franzescos Zachariadou, Elena Kapakiotou,
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Constantinos Katsambas, Elpida Kyriakou, Zacharoula Loizou, Andreas Mpirros, Iasonas Nicolaou, Eleftheria Xerou, Entita Orpanidou, Nasia Pantelidou, Heraklis Papaerakleous, Michaela Paschali, Elena Pavlou, Ioanna Petrou, Eleni Pratsi, Agamemnon Savvides, Lara Anna Scharf, Sophia Stylianou, Laoura Tzourrou, Photios Telemachou, Styliana Charitou, Gianna Christodoulou, Sophi Christodoulou, Stefanos Christoforou, Antigoni Chrysostomou.

Winter Semester 2012-13

Tutors: Socrates Stratis, Christos Papastergiou

Adamos Adamou, Maria Theodoulou, Stephanie Cleovoulou, Demetra Patsia, Athanasia Agapiou, Nikoletta Andreou, Christina Palochi, Giorgos Charalambous, Timotheos Alexi, Andronikos Kallis, Andrea Spyrou, Stavros Frangogiannopoulos A. Leontiou, K. Panteli, E. Hadjipetrou, D. Hadjiyianguou Androniki Irodoutou, Georgia Papasozomenou, Elena Pavlou, Maria Sophokleous

International Networks, Practices and Pedagogical Programs

Archis Interventions SEE Netherlands – Kai Volcker and collaborators

Build Up Barcelona, Spain – Rodrigo Davies, Michaela Ledesma, Helena Puig Larrauri, Jennifer Gaskell

Mapping Controversies UK – Albenia Yaneva

City Reparo Northern Ireland, UK – Mark Hackett, Ken Sterret

Institute of Threshold Turkey, Italy – Pelin Tan, Joseph Grima

Passages France – Overall coordination Marcel Smets, Yuna Conan, Mireille Apel-Muller

Steering Committee Pascal Amphoux, Mireille Apel-Muller, Yuna Conan, Carles Llop, Jean-Pierre Orfeuill, Laetitia Piccinini, Didier Rebois, Marcel Smets, Maarten Van Acker

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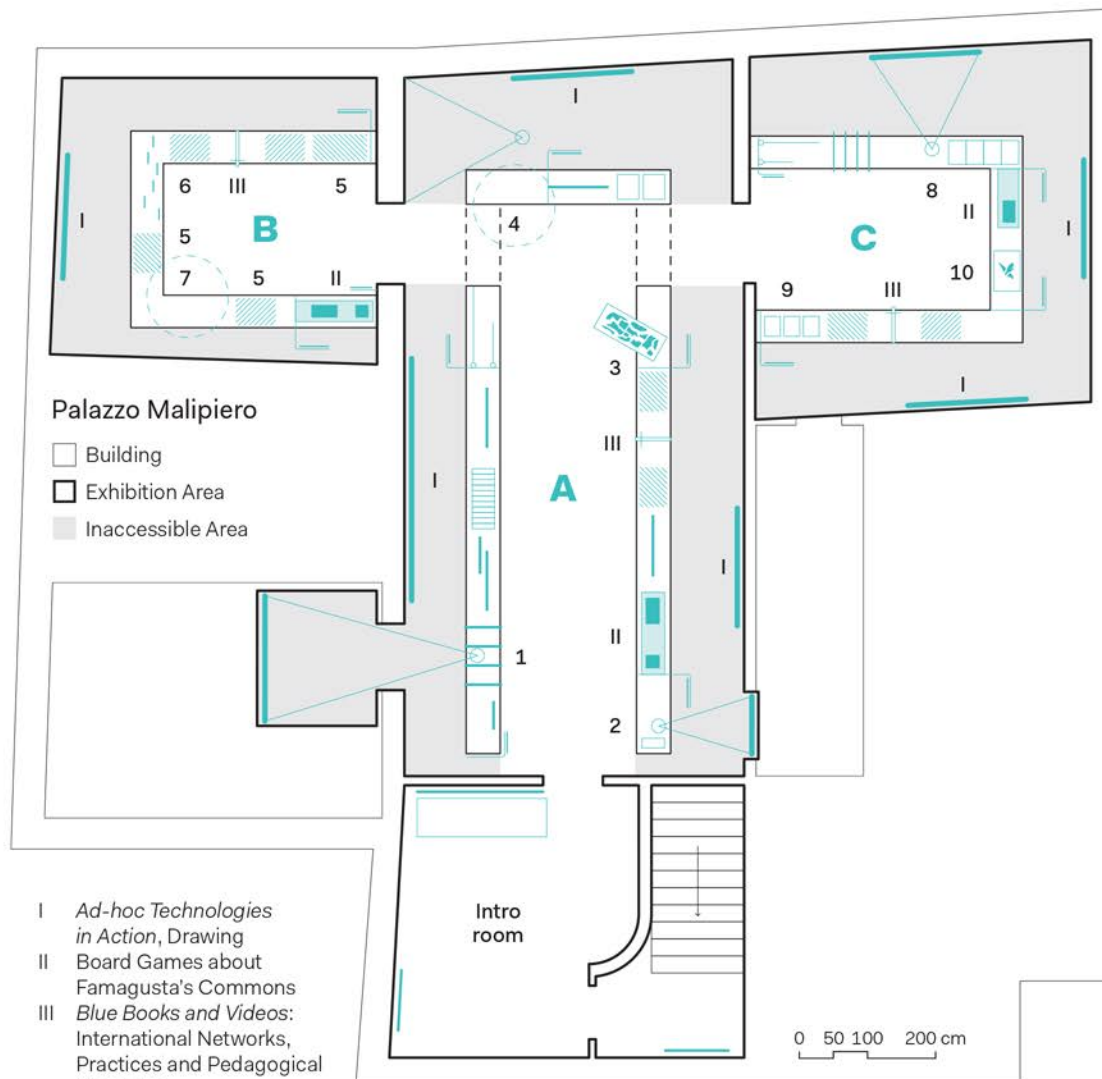


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- I Ad-hoc Technologies in Action, Drawing
- II Board Games about Famagusta's Commons
- III Blue Books and Videos: International Networks, Practices and Pedagogical Programs

A Counter Mapping

- 1 *Await* Video Installation
- 2 *IF* Video installation
- 3 *Anatomy of Enclaves* Model Installation
- 4 *Every Summer Cyprus* Sound Installation

B Introducing Urban Controversies

- 5 *Red Book: The Making of Controversial Questions, the Hands-on Famagusta* Web-platform
- 6 *Actorial Alliances and Disputes around Nine Controversies*
- 7 *Dialogics* Sound Installation

C Creating Thresholds

- 8 *Variations on Urban Imaginaries* Video Installation
- 9 *Found-in Translation*
- 10 *Action Dove* Graffiti Practices