



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

'POROUS BORDERS'

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 10th September - 19th November 2006 - Daily Opening Hours: 10.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

VENUES: Mondadori Bookshop, San Marco 1345 – Venice

COMMISSIONERS: Petros Dymiotis - Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture

VICE – COMMISSIONER: Stavroulla Andreu.

CURATORS: Morpho Papanikolaou and Irena Sakellaridou.

CO- CURATOR: Memos Philippides.

EXHIBITORS: M. Christodoulides, Chr. Christodoulou & E.Bozatti | Chr. Chrysanthou | M. Danou & S. Floridou | Epi tessera Architects (G. Georgiou, G. Paroutis, E. Parouti, M. Charalambidou) | Chr. Hadjichristou, D. Ioannides | Y. Hadjichristou, P. Konstantinou & V. Antoniou | E. Papachristou & D. Irwin | Gr. Patsalosavvis | P. Philippou, A. Antoniou & A. Swiny | S. Stratis & M. Loizidou (www.porousborders.org).

Co - ORGANISATION: Architects' Association of Cyprus and Architects Association of CCEAA.

COORDINATION AND PRESS OFFICE IN VENICE: Arte Communications.

The 10th Biennale Architecture, directed by Richard Burdett, will investigate the interactions between cities, architecture and society. It aspires to bring forth the wealth and variety of the urban convention through the presentation of projects that investigate the broader socio-economic aspects of the interaction between architecture and society. At the same time, national participations will have the opportunity to reveal the plethora and diversity of their particular urban conditions.

The participation of Cyprus in this year's 10th Biennale intends to highlight the issue of the dead zone in Nicosia, contained within the historical centre of the city (wall-enclosed part). Ten groups of architects were asked to present projects, which suggests an open, experimental, approach of exploring the nature of the border and its dead zone, and the possibility of its negation by means of architectural projects that restore *porosity*.

The scope of the proposal is to examine the intermediate space and its interfaces and to explore the competence of architecture in interpreting the dual, alternating character of the area, its exclusive idiosyncrasy as an urban reality and as the sole ground in the world map that offers such experience.

The green line of Nicosia (the dead zone)

A labyrinth, a different spatial structure is revealed and intervenes with history. The soldiers cut holes that penetrate building after building, exposing spaces, yards, dead-ends, and blocked facades. Parallel courses, parallel stories, condensation and inflation along the passages. The boundaries between inside and outside, between the private and the public are diffused. New passages are opened, leading from one building to the other, from one area to another, overturning what used to be. If public is the space that we share with the others, where we become conscious of their presence, a dead zone is at the same time a public and private place. What used to be public is now forbidden, what used to be private is now public. It does not belong to an individual; it is a place for all, forbidden to all. A labyrinth, a new spatial structure that intersects the existing one, suggests that this structure can be permeated, can be porous.

The dead zone, folding matter, space and time, creates a desert land. How can the boundary be infiltrated? How can the lift of prohibition affect the dead zone? Will the dynamics of the city centre take over? How can architecture speak about the atmosphere, the silence and the sounds that fill it? Can architecture read the layered spatial structures and make proposals before the city moves to seize and incorporate it? Can architecture reveal what is hidden, bring to light the obscure, invent mechanisms and form links among the various contradictions: yesterday / tomorrow, two communities, presence / absence, city as a living reality / memory land, subjective / objective?

Ten architects or groups of architects and an artist are asked to read the place and interpret it through their projects. Two threads are followed at the same time: the interpretation of the complex nature of the "no-place", the dead zone, and the proposal / experiment that intends to transform it into a real place. The projects aim to investigate the interface, to restore the porosity between the perceived and the actual space, between the living city and the dead zone.

The memory of the place; the osmosis between the public and the private realm; the complexity of the spatial structure; the idiosyncrasy of a non-existing place, of a public space that does not belong, a place of porous nature with elements of instability and volatility in time, a space built with surfaces and volumes, a place woven with matter and light, shadows and sounds, recollections and myths, tensions and pauses, trajectories and impossible escapes; common elements, concepts, and themes that unite or divide, (the two communities, the activities, everyday life, the urban tissue), can become, among others, some of the themes to be explored.

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