

# ARCHI-FUTURES



NATASA CHRISTOU

**MONDAY 23rd  
OF APRIL 2018**

**Ph.D by Design  
Defence  
and EXPO OPENING**

'Rebooting Architectural Practi c/s e:  
Generating Interactions in between'  
by Natasa Christou.

The research introduces Research by  
Design as a Methodology to combine  
theory and design practice in order to  
broadening our understanding of the  
role of the architect today.

Supervisor: Nadia Charalambous

**DEFENCE:**

23rd of April 2018 - 15:00

**EXHIBITION OPENING:**

23rd of April 2018 - 18:30

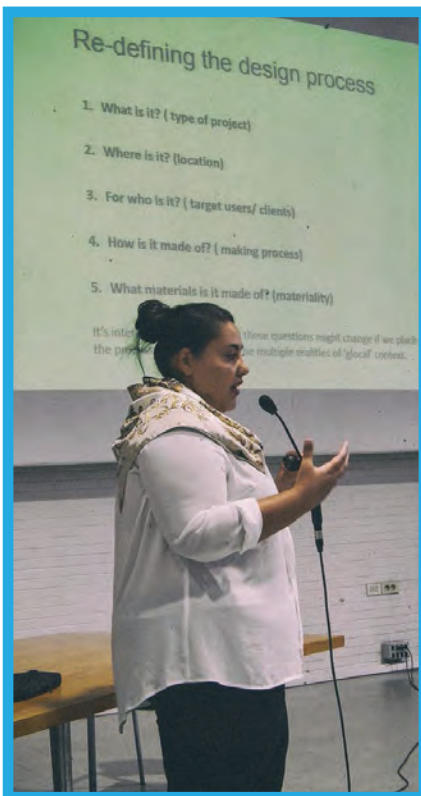
@ GROUND FLOOR

Department of Architecture  
University of Cyprus  
Ledras 68 and Ariadnes 23A  
P.C. 1010, Nicosia, Cyprus

**CLOSING PARTY -19:30**

## About Research /

This research is about broadening our understanding of the role of the architect in the contemporary, complex world. Currently, the foundations of how the economy is progressing is fundamentally changing. The market is disrupted by bottom-up, community-driven actions. This research explores the possibility to shift the traditional mentality of designing– in which works rely on a client’s specifications – to an entrepreneurial mentality in which architects ‘discover’ problems and opportunities to design for. The rapid and often unpredictable changes of the last decade have opened up challenging questions for design: Who is in the most need of our services and how can architects as professionals, may grasp the opportunity to add value in the current status of society? This research proposes a new, emergent concept of inter[Active]-Architecture, where the architect acts as the facilitator who connects stakeholders together so that they can generate their own impact. In order to achieve this methodologically, a Research by Design approach forms the pathway for developing research investigations in practice. Designing for social impact is an approach that can open paths to further investigate our understanding about what the ‘product’ of architecture can be. Therefore, the research findings should inform the model of architectural practice and indicate the multiple roles architects may have as activists, facilitators, enablers and social entrepreneurs – a stance that could potentially inform architectural education. In combination this should help to envisage new ways in which the architectural industry can deliver value from its design skills and create social value while also generating profit.



## About Natasa Christou /

Natasa Christou is a certified Architect and the director of FabLab Cy, an alternative architectural practice giving a strong emphasis in prototyping and innovation. She received her BA and Master’s degree in Architecture at the University of Westminster, London UK. She has been previously teaching at the Department of Architecture in the University of Cyprus, University of Nicosia and University of Westminster in London. Her personal direction on Computational Design became the reason to become certified as an Authorized Rhino Trainer. With more than 5 years of mentoring and entrepreneurial experience, she dedicates her work on training individuals and teams to go from idea to execution, by cultivating the entrepreneurial mindset, creative ability and tech-knowledge. She is the founder of 3 start-ups (among which Tellalis.com, accredited with an EU innovation grant and multiple other awards). Natasa Christou has recently been appointed as a national ‘expert’ in the creative industries and cultural sector for the European Commission.