

AREA™

Architecture Research Athens
Daouti Mitroulias Raftopoulos

AREA™ (Architecture Research Athens) is a professional design practice established in 2006 by Styliani Daouti, Giorgos Mitroulias and Michaeljohn Raftopoulos. With academic and professional experience in Greece, France, the Netherlands and the U.S.A., AREA met in New York City but chose to return to Athens in order to participate in the recent, dynamic transformations of the architectural landscape in Greece.

In an age where everyone seems to be asking "what" and "how much", AREA insists on asking "why" and "how". Architecture is seen foremost as a process, where design evolves by way of collaboration, research and continuous interaction with the alleged "user", who never enters last. An "economy of means" is both a starting point and an end in itself, according to which innovation occurs through the critical reinterpretation of existing forms. Our goal is to discover opportunities for the improvement of the (built) environment, even where these lie hidden within the conventions of the everyday. We believe that design must surpass its practical origins in order to enrich everyday life, transfiguring abstract ideas of organization, layout and structure into unexpected spatial experiences. The emphasis on creative process and the salience granted to ephemeral aspects of architecture through the design of installations, actions and events relegate traditional issues of scale to a position of secondary importance. In this sense, the subject of our work is the city at every possible scale, from furniture to the urban whole to landscape.

AREA's work has been distinguished among the best buildings and best projects of 2013 and 2015 (DOMES International Review of Architecture, 2013, 2015) and has received numerous awards in competitions for public and private projects. Among these, AREA received First Prize in the architecture competition for 220 housing units in Thessaloniki (2007), Third Prize in the European competition for the new offices of the Cypriot News Agency in Nicosia (2010), First Prize (ex aequo) in the national competition AthinaX4 (2011) and Honorable Mention in the European competition European 12 for the design of Social Housing in Nuremberg, Germany (2013). In 2012, AREA was chosen as one of the up-and-coming architecture offices to represent Greece in the exhibition "Made in Athens" in the Greek Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Styliani Daouti (Athens, 1978) studied architecture at the Paris Belleville Architecture School, France (DPLG, 2002) and worked for several firms in Paris before receiving her MsAAD at Columbia University, NY (2005). In New York she worked in the office of Gordon Kipping, G-Tects LLC. In 2004 she was awarded third prize in the international competition for the Hellinicon Metropolitan Park. She has also taught a design studio at the University of Patras School of Architecture.

Giorgos Mitroulias (Athens, 1978) studied architecture at the National Technical University of Athens (1996-2002) and worked for Kokkinou+Kourkoulas in Athens and Van de Broek en Bakema in Rotterdam. Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2003, he received his MsAAD at Columbia University, NY (2004), before working in the office of Steven Holl Architects. Since 2014 he is a Lecturer the University of Thessaly School of Architecture.

Michaeljohn Raftopoulos (Athens, 1978) acquired the Bachelor of Arts in the History of Art (Class Honors) from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1995-1999. In 2002 he completed his MArch at the University of California at Berkeley where he collaborated with Greig Chrysler in research and publication projects. From 2004-2006 he worked for Stephan Jaklitsch Architects in New York, And ISV Architects in Athens. Since 2013 he has taught a design studio at the University of Patras School of Architecture.