



LECTURE INVITATION

Panayiota Pyla,
Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture,
will give a lecture titled

Modern Architecture and the Politics of Tourism, Development, and Conflict



on Monday December 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. [Nicosia]
Ground Floor, Ledras Street, Department of Architecture Building,
Or, Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ucy.zoom.us/j/93765593484?pwd=UDIRNk5NdDBjTGw2NVIMUUIxRHNadz09>

Meeting ID: 937 6559 3484; Passcode: 214635

The presentation is part of the evaluation procedure for promotion to the rank of Professor.

Abstract

This presentation interrogates the entwinement of post-WWII architectural history with the politics of tourism development, decolonization and nation-building. Focusing on the 1960s coastal development of Famagusta, the main part of the presentation exposes the intertwined impacts of foreign expertise, state agendas, and private enterprise, on the rapid development of the coastline of this south-eastern city of Cyprus. Famagusta was celebrated as ‘the Miami of the Middle East’, even as its leisure aesthetic was being shaped against the background of intercommunal conflict and other antagonisms. Contextualizing this case into the global history of postwar and postcolonial modernism, this presentation not only provides a spatial history of tourism, but also highlights its significance in current architectural historiography. Furthermore, this historically grounded analysis, supported by two research programs on the history of modernism and leisure, informs larger interdisciplinary research and teaching, as well as other scholarly endeavors of the speaker and her research team, that aim to insert historical knowledge into the social, cultural, and environmental project of architecture.

About the speaker

Panayiota Pyla is an architectural historian and theorist, and Associate Professor at the University of Cyprus Department of Architecture, where she previously served as Chair. She is also Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Cyprus. Before UCy, she served on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and spent a year at the Harvard Design School as a postdoctoral fellow. Pyla holds a Ph.D. in the History-Theory of Architecture and Urbanism from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA, 2002). Among her works is the co-edited *Coastal Architectures and the Politics of Tourism* (Forthcoming, Routledge, 2022) and the edited *Landscapes of Development* (Harvard University, 2013); several book chapters and scholarly articles in the *Architectural Theory Review*, the *Journal of Architecture*, and the *Journal of Architectural Education* (best article award), among others. She served on the editorial boards of *Architectural Histories*, and the *Journal of Planning History*, and has been a peer reviewer for several architectural history-theory journals. She co-chaired the 2017 Thematic Conference of the European Architectural History Network “Histories in Conflict,” and co-curated architectural exhibitions.
