

CONSTANTINOS MARCOU

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Biography

Constantinos Marcou (London, 1988) is a British Cypriot writer, architect and urban designer based in Larnaca, Cyprus. He studied Architecture at the University of Cyprus where he graduated with excellence, continuing his studies at UCL where he received his Masters Degree in Urban Design under the mentorship of Luca Galofaro and Davide Sacconi. Following his studies, he became an editor for a local architectural magazine, investigating the syntactic and literary aspect of architecture where he wrote his column titled: Chorographies, a series of fictional stories dedicated to unfold the complexity of the human condition, where tensions, contradictions and intimate social relations between individuals formed a framing device for the ethos of imaginary cities. In 2014, he founded the Atelier for Architecture + Research, a platform through which he developed a critical form of practice where research and design coexist, free from the constraints of the rising contemporary compulsion, while continue exploring spatial politics and urban conflicts, the complex relationship between architecture and socio-political reform in the context of emancipatory struggles, the politics of representation and the productive use of different means of communication as instruments for problematization, questioning the category of the urban. Since then, he has been engaged with several projects, for which he received international awards and recognition by prestigious institutions and organizations such as Unesco and the UIA (International Union of Architects). Some of these awards include: 2nd prize runner up for the Bamiyan Cultural Centre Design Competition, honorable mention at the 2019 Fairytales Competition organized by Blank Space, one of the winners of the “Next Helsinki” Competition and shortlisted for his project regarding the urban transformation and new housing typology in Azenhas do Mar, part of the European '13 competition. In 2015, his project: “A Baltic Tale of Nothingness” was presented at the Talin Architecture Biennale. Recently, in 2020, he was selected as one the twenty-five fellows for the Future Architecture Platform. Marcou participated in various publications and presented his work at conferences and at universities both nationally and internationally. He has also collaborated with the University of Cyprus as an external diploma thesis advisor for undergraduate students and assisted in the curation of exhibitions for local artists in Paris and Miami. Marcou was awarded the “certificate of registration in the Registrar of Architects” by the Scientific Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK) in 2015.