

Curriculum Vitae

MELINA PHILIPPOU

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My integrated research, practice, and teaching in art, architecture, and urban design lie in the intersection of Social Impact Design, Community Development, and Critical Cartography. My work explores questions concerning the cultural resilience of the forcefully displaced, climate change adaptation in contested territories, and critical cartography in environments of data scarcity. My methods borrow from spatial analytics and community-based participatory research. I seek to build tools, processes, and infrastructure to support equal-opportunity ecosystems for the sustainable development of fragile populations. In collaboration with grassroots, municipalities, and academic institutions, I have worked on the ground for the equitable development of communities at the Bronx-USA, Lisbon-PO, and Azraq-JO.

1. Education

School	Degree	Date
Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Architecture & Planning	SMArchS, Urbanism Master of Science in Architectural Studies, Urbanism	2014-16
The National Technical University of Athens School of Architecture <i>*Admitted 1st among Cypriot students and graduated in the top 10 of her class.</i>	Professional Degree in Architecture Engineering	2013
Ecole National Supérieure d'Architecture Val de Seine	Academic Exchange	2010

2. Title of Thesis for Most Advanced Degree:

Master of Science thesis: "The Border as Nomos: An alternative for the Stateless"

3. Principal Fields of interest:

Architecture
Urban Design
Critical Cartography
Cultural & Environmental Resilience

4. Academic Appointments:

Employer	Position	Date
Future Heritage Lab Led by prof. Azra Aksamija School of Architecture and Planning, MIT	Program Director Lead Researcher	4/2017 Today

- Led applied research on the ground on the natural and cultural sustainability of environments in scarcity.
- Plan, coordinate, and evaluate 6 research programs in the intersection of art, culture, technology.
- Manage teams of 3-20 people in the US, Europe, and the Middle East.
- Communicate with partners and stakeholders to develop project deliverables in a timely manner.
- Facilitate workshops, organize symposiums and curate exhibitions for the dissemination of research.
- Taught and supported the development of graduate and undergraduate student modules, online and onsite for MIT, FHL courses at the Art, Culture Technology Program of the School of Architecture & Planning.
- Identify and profile relevant institutions and initiatives for collaboration.
- Develop and manage strong working relationships with universities like the University of Geneva and the German Jordanian University, NGO's like the Lisbon Triennale, Queen Rania Foundation, and the Norwegian Refugee Council and private sector entities like the Aga Kahn Museum, Toronto, and the Sharjah Museums.
- Monitor and identify relevant calls for funding.
- Draft & negotiate research proposals and grant applications with partners and stakeholders.
- Secure funds for the initialization and financial sustainability of the lab for 5 years.
- Draft and deliver material about the lab, current and future projects, including fundraising decks, concept papers, press releases, and reports.
- Overview and supervise student internships and travel exchanges in Jordan.

Department of Architecture, UCY

Adjunct Faculty

**1/2019 12/2020
9/2022 12/2022**

- Develop and teach undergraduate core urban design and architectural design studios in collaboration with prof. Socrates Stratis and prof. Emeritus Lois Papadopoulos.

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, UCL

Research Associate

1/2021 6/2021

- Supported the research, development and localization of a graduate course at MSc Health in Urban Development led by prof. Haim Yacobi.

Graduate

**Community Innovators Lab
Led by Nick Iuviene**

Research Associate

6/2016 3/2017

Department of Urban Studies & Planning, MIT

- Planned and initialized the first Bronx-based innovation & advanced manufacturing program.
- Drafted & delivered the Bronx Innovation Center Development & Implementation Plan that secured collaboration with the NYC and Mondragon, Spain.
- Engaged and consulted stakeholders in participatory design processes.
- Collected and assessed innovation policy and programs in the US and the EU.
- Mapped and analyzed urban data on advanced manufacturing trends, innovation activities and employment patterns in the US.

Urban Metabolism Group,
Led by prof. John Fernandez
School of Architecture and Planning, MIT

Research Assistant

SS 2015

- Developed , in a group of 5, an interface to facilitate environmental policy decision-making.
- The interface calculates and visualizes the consumption of Energy, Water, Food, Goods, Construction Materials, Solid Waste and CO2 emissions per building for their existing condition and after the implementation of 27 sustainable strategies.
- Mined, analyzed, and visualized urban data working closely with city officials, national agencies, private companies, and local researchers.

5. Publications of Melina Philippou:

Edited Book

1. Akšamija Azra, Philippou Melina, Mazjoub Raafat. Design to Live: Everyday Inventions from a Refugee Camp. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2021.

Book Chapter

1. Akšamija, Azra and Melina, Philippou "Cultural Resilience: Perspectives from Al Azraq Refugee Camp, Jordan," edited by Hashim Sarkis. Venice: Venice Biennale, 2021, pp. 26-47.

Papers in Refereed Journals

1. Philippou, Melina. *The Spatial Extensions of the Right to Seek Asylum: The Eastern Mediterranean Refugee Route*. FOOTPRINT 14, no. 2 (2020): 49-68.

Conference proceedings

1. Philippou, Melina. *The Spatial Extensions of the Right to Seek Asylum: The Eastern Mediterranean Refugee Route*. Mediating the Spatiality of Conflict, International Conference Proceedings, BK Books (2019): 199-2019.
2. Philippou, Melina and Tsoukia Eleana. *Domesticity: The Case study of Athens*. Changing Cities: Spatial, morphological, formal & socio-economic dimensions International Conference Proceedings, Grafima Press (2013)
3. Philippou, Melina. *Neo-nomad: The man of the network revolution era*. 9th International conference on intelligent environments (workshops), IOS Press (2013): 709-721.

6. Significant Exhibitions /Special Commissions/Public Installations Date

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| 1. Aksamija Azra & Philippou Melina. Retroactive Infrastructures, Lisbon Architecture Triennale, PT | 2022 |
| 2. Aksamija Azra & Philippou Melina, Displaced Empire, Venice Architecture Biennale, Arsenale, Venice, IT | 2021 |
| 3. Philippou Melina, Aksamija Azra, Madi Zeid, Design Methods as a Form of Self-Determination, Infrastructures of Care: Spaces of Displacement & Refuge exhibition, UCL, The Bartlett School of Architecture, UK | 2019 |
| 4. Philippou Melina, The right to seek asylum, Infrastructures of Care: Spaces of Displacement & Refuge exhibition, UCL, The Bartlett School of Architecture, UK | 2019 |
| 5. Aksamija Azra & Philippou Melina, Digital Majlis, Housing + exhibition, Center for Advanced Urbanism, Okawa Lobby, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts, USA | 2018 |

Collective work Date

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| 1. MIT FHL, Sanctuary exhibition, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, CA | 2020 |
| 2. MIT FHL, T-Serai exhibition, Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization, Sharjah, UAE | 2019 |
| 3. MIT FHL, Diaspora Scroll, Large public projection on the Mariahilfer Church, Kunsthaus Graz for the Klanglicht Festival 4.28-30, 2018, Graz, AT | 2018 |
| 4. MIT FHL, Faith Love Hope. 800 Years of the Graz-Seckau Diocese, Kunsthaus Graz, AT | 2018 |
| 5. MIT FHL, Code of Ethics – On the Role of Art and Design in the Humanitarian Context, MIT Keller Gallery, US | 2017 |
| 6. Sarkis Hashim, Roi Salgueiro, Kozlowski Gabriel & Philippou Melina, The World According to Architecture, Lisbon Triennial, PT | 2016 |
| 7. Hackitectura, Mapping the Commons, EMST, Athens, GR | 2011 |

7. Exhibitions Curated by Melina Philippou	Date
1. <i>Design for the Real World Across Scales</i> , Amman Design Week Platform & MIT FHL, JO	2018
2. Aksamija Azra, Philippou Melina, Mohamad Yaghan, Zeid Madi. <i>Design for a Nomadic World</i> , group exhibition at the Amman Design Week, JO	2017
3. Philippou Melina, Dimitris Venizelos, Daphne Nikita. <i>Carry me Home</i> , PASHIAS solo exhibition, Diatopos, CY	2019
8. Symposia, Workshops, and Panels Organized by Melina Philippou:	Date
1. Conference Scientific Committee: Repurposing places for social and environmental resilience International Conference 2023 University of East London, Arup, Counterarchitecture, UK	2023
2. Seminar: Code of Ethics: Informing bureaucratic documents through artistic practice Goethe-institute Zypern, BEUYS 100: Social Sculptures, CY	2021
3. Design Competition Committee: De-Urbanized Epidemics, Re-Design of the Concept of Health in Relation to the Built Environment, with Hossein Sadri, Cristiano Luchetti & Aslihan Demirtas.	2020
4. Panel: Healthcare Accessibility in Nicosia, University College London, Development Planning Unit, Virtual event	2021
5. Workshop: The Cyprus Studio: Re-conciliating Landscapes with Socrates Stratis, University of Pennsylvania & University of Cyprus	2019
6. Workshop: Tips & Tricks, exchanges on workflow optimization, University of Cyprus, School of Architecture, CY	2019
7. Workshop: T-Serai, textile technologies for natural and cultural sustainability, Norwegian Refugee Council & MIT FHL, Zaatari Refugee Camp, JO.	2019
8. Workshop: Ethics of Admissions in the context of the EU, From Alienation to Inclusion project (Erasmus +, Development for Innovation), CEPS Projects Socials, Barcelona, ES	2018
9. Workshop: Communities of Closure: Barriers & Opportunities for Integration in the EU, Counter-Identities for Shaping Collectivities (Erasmus +, Mobility of Individuals), CIP Citizens in Power, CY	2017
10. Festival: Display Window Shop with PASHIAS & Paul Sarz, Epiteles Performance Art Foundation & Municipality of Athens, GR	2014

9. Invited Lectures

1. Philippou Melina. *Design to Live: Everyday Inventions from a refugee camp*, Lecture at the London College of Communication (LCC), University of the Arts, Space & Place Research Hub lecture series. 5 May 2022.
2. Philippou Melina. Invited Panelist. Round table: *Design to Live: Everyday Inventions from a refugee camp* moderated by John Tirman at the MIT Center for International Studies. Myron Weiner Seminar Series on International Migration. 29 April 2022.
3. Azra Aksamija, Raafat Majzoub (SMACT '17), and Melina Philippou, *Design to Live: Everyday Inventions from a refugee camp*, Lecture at MIT School of Architecture & Planning. Art Culture Technology Program Spring 2022 public programming, 10 March 2022.
4. Philippou Melina. Invited Panelist. Round table on the water commons of Nicosia moderated by Kyriaki Costa, *Head and Hand Foun(d)ain*, New European Bauhaus Festival side events, NiMac, Nicosia. 21 June 2022.
5. Philippou Melina. *Fields Condition*, Lecture at the 13th Annual AIA Arizona Associate Conference, American Institute of Architecture-Arizona Component. 25 February 2020.
6. Philippou Melina. *The spatial extensions of the right to seek asylum*, Lecture at the Conflict Mediations Lecture Series, organized by the UCY, TU Delft & University of Sheffield. 14 June 2021.
7. Philippou Melina. Invited Panelist. Code of Ethics_Cyprus, *The earth is speaking podcast*, BEUYS 2021 global festival & Goethe-institute, Fall 2021.
8. Philippou, Melina. Invited Panelist. *Round table and debate: The Larnaca port area regeneration*. 5th Larnaca 2020. Oxygono NGO. 27 September 2021.
9. Philippou Melina. *Think Big: Stakeholder engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and other stories*, Lecture at the Architecture Research Center-University of Nicosia. 5 December 2018.
10. Philippou, Melina, Venizelos Demetris. *Architecture as a mechanism of viewing*. Lecture at the Cultural Center of the Bank of Cyprus, The Temple Boy exhibition lecture series, 7 January 2018.

10. Invited Lectures for Seminars and Classes

1. Philippou, Melina. *Athens public space in conditions of crisis*, Lecture at the Department of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens, Greece, Course: Open Public Spaces in Urban & Natural Landscapes, instructor Ariadni Vozani. 2 April 2021.
2. Philippou Melina. *Spatial Practices and Refugee-hood in the European Context*, Department of Architecture, University of Nicosia, course Unit 8 _Displaced Architecture, instructors Alessandra Swiny, Angela Petrou, Yiorgos Hadjichristou, 5 October 2019.
3. Philippou, Melina, Tsoukia Eleana. *Domesticity: The case study of Athens*, Lecture at the Department of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens, Greece, Course: Open Public Spaces in Urban & Natural Landscapes, instructor Ariadni Vozani. 14 April 2018.

11. Selected Professional Appearances in Press/Print Media/Internet

1. Akšamija Azra, Philippou Melina, Mazjoub Raafat. *Excerpt: At the Azraq Refugee Camp, Restoring Humanity Through Art and Design*. MIT Press Reader. March 2022.
2. Greta Rainbow. *Existing is an act of resistance: the Syrian refugees creating design from displacement*. The Guardian. 18 October 2021.
3. Archetype Team. *Displaced Empire: Al Azraq Refugee Camp, Jordan*. Archetype Magazine. 11 July 2021.
4. Melina Arvaniti-Pollatou. *The MIT, Future Heritage Lab contribution to the 17th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia*, Archisearch. 28 May 2021.
5. Peter Dizikes. *Ingenuity, design, and the human spirit*. MIT News. 19 October 2021.
6. Maria Panayiotou. Melina Philippou: Displaced Empire, Phileleftheros. 26 July, 2021 (published in Greek).
7. Camille Dupire. *Azraq refugees partner with designers to 'invent solutions to daily problems*, Jordan Times. 10 October 2017.
8. *The MIT Future Heritage Lab: Empowering Refugees to Discover Their Emotional and Cultural Needs*. J-WEL Abdul Latif Jameel World Education Lab (blog). 13 November 2017.
9. Leonidas Antonopoulos, *4Greece*, Hellenic Public Radio Television, 2014.

12. Awards Received

Date

Commendation with prof. Azra Aksamija, 6th Holcim Global Awards for Sustainable Construction	2021
Honorable Mention with prof. Azra Aksamija, 6th Holcim, Middle East, Awards for Sustainable Construction	2021
Honorable mention with Anastasia Angelidou Salina Park Competition, Municipality of Larnaca	2020
Invited Residency, Amman Design Week Platform, Jordan	2018

13. Fellowships and Stipendiums

Date

Merit-based graduate fellowship for academic excellence, School of Architecture and Planning, MIT	2014-16
Fulbright scholarship for graduate studies, Cyprus Fulbright Commission	2014-16
Merit-based grant for graduate studies, A.G Leventis Foundation, GR	2014-16

Merit-based grant for graduate studies, 2014-15
Foundation for Education and European Culture, GR

Merit-based scholarship for undergraduate studies, 2005-09
IKY Greek State Scholarship Foundation, GR

Merit-based scholarship for undergraduate studies, 2005-09
IKY Cyprus State Scholarship Foundation, CY

- Granted for ranking 1st among Cypriot students in the Nationwide University Examinations.