

Title: Uneasy but Shared Heritage: Modern Hotel Architecture on a Divided Island

Program Duration: 10.02.2022 – 09.01.2024

Coordination: Professor P. Pyla / Mesarch Lab

Funding: Research and Innovation Foundation (Cyprus) [co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Republic of Cyprus] [€120.000]

Main Research: S. Palate

Participation of UCY: Panayiota Pyla

Description: This study interrogates the contestations that surround the post-1974 use, appropriation, and misappropriation of modern hotels built in 1960–74, as well as their current realities as embodiments of shifting socio-political narratives that are both ambivalent and complex. By focusing on ten hotels as paradigmatic of modern heritage, this project asks: How can the insights of architectural history shed light on the potentiality of these buildings to serve as shared heritage between the two communities of the island? Can this modern heritage ultimately be incorporated into the physical landscape of a post-conflict future Cyprus? This study is conducted as an encounter of modern architectural history with critical heritage studies and aims to advance a scholarly exposition of the multiplicity of frictions, narratives, and interpretations that could potentially unfold histories that have remained hidden or lost behind the buildings' present physical condition. To this end, this project draws on archival research and fieldwork, as well as oral histories, to provide a critical history of the different interpretive structures and agendas that surround these hotels and investigate how they could potentially open up possibilities of a shared heritage.