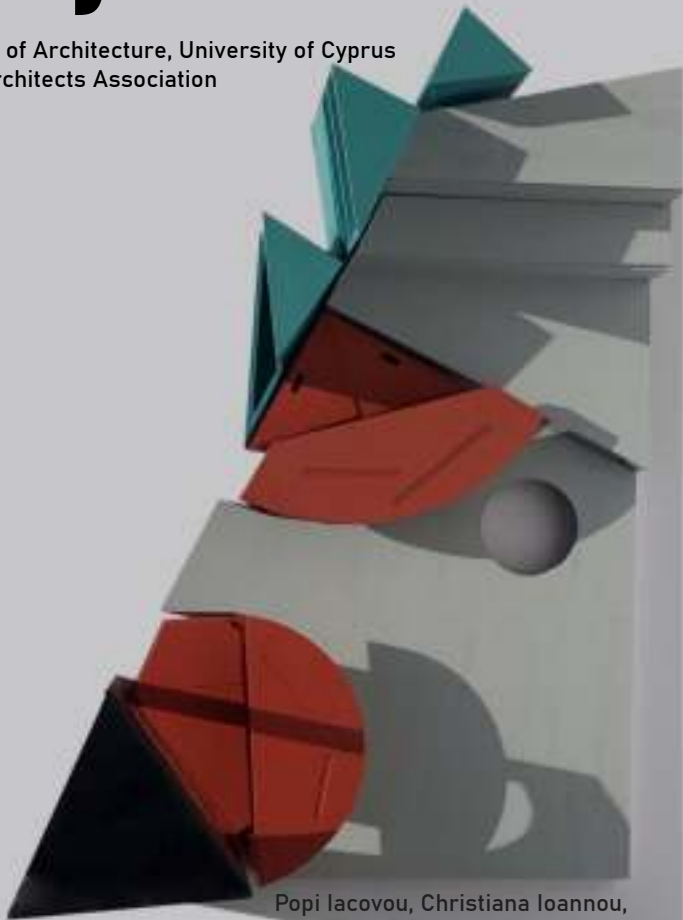


Staging PlayTimes

Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus
& Cyprus Architects Association



Popi Iacovou, Christiana Ioannou,
Kyriakos Miltiadou

Staging PlayTimes

Summer Workshop 2024



07	Preface
09	Staging PlayTimes
16	Site
22	Design
34	Making
52	Installation
73	Bios
82	Credits



Summer Workshop 2024

Cyprus Architects Association
Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus
1-10 July 2024

The Summer Workshop 2024, 'Staging PlayTimes', was co-organised by the Cyprus Architects Association and the Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus. The workshop focused on the design and making of a children's space for the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre – NiMAC, that could serve as a place for creative activity through play and its transformative role in the museum space.

Preface

The Summer Workshop for Students and Young Architects is organized annually by the Cyprus Architects Association and is an important architectural-educational event. Through this initiative, the new generation of architects, coming from different universities and countries of study, is given the opportunity to collaborate within a group and highlight contemporary architectural issues with their creative thinking. The workshop participants are involved in all stages of the design process, starting from the conception of an idea to the elaboration of the design, representation, and material construction. This year, we had the participation of twenty-seven students and young architects, spanning from Universities in Cyprus, Greece, the Netherlands, and the UK.

The Cyprus Architects Association encourages and is particularly sensitive to challenges that incorporate the element of public sentiment and social contribution. The project is not an on-demand commission but an initiative aimed at upgrading public spaces. The message of this initiative is directed at society itself, which observes students and young architects contributing with their proposals to the enhancement of public spaces. At the same time, it conveys the message that there is room for such initiatives, which are fully in line with the mission of architectural practice.

The Summer Workshop 2024 entitled “Staging PlaTimes” was assigned to the Department of Architecture University

of Cyprus. Under the scientific committee of Popi Iacovou, Christiana Ioannou, and Kyriakos Miltiadou, the participants designed and implemented a flexible wooden structure, which was installed at the Municipal Arts Centre -NiMAC, and will serve as a creative space for children.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Architects Association, I express my warmest thanks to the team involved for the cooperation and the final result.

Alkis Dikaïos
President of Cyprus Architects Association

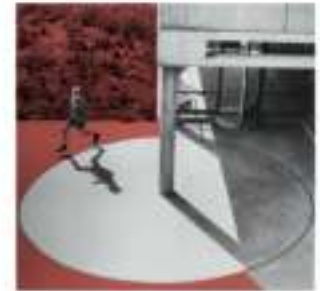
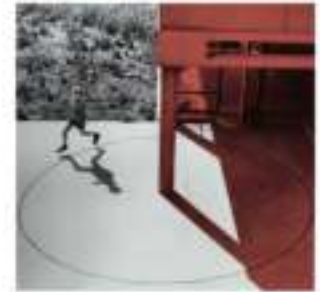
Staging Play Times

The city without the child's particular motion is a malignant paradox. The child discovers its identity against all odds, damaged and damaging in perpetual danger and incidental sunshine [...] When snow falls on cities, the child, taking over for a while, is all at once Lord of the city. Now if the child, thus assisted, rediscovers the city, the city may still rediscover its children.

Aldo Van Eyck, Aldo Van Eyck's Works, Compilation by Vincent, Ligtelijn, Birkhauser Publishers, Basel, 1999

Aldo van Eyck advocated for the importance of integrating play into urban spaces so that children feel welcome, safe, and free to explore. Anthropologist Victor Turner linked play with the concept of liminality, suggesting that both involve a suspension of normal social structures and norms.

Play, like liminality, creates a space between reality and imagination where participants can temporarily escape conventional roles and expectations, allowing space for experimentation and transformation. Both in play and liminal



situations, there is a sense of ambiguity and openness to new possibilities, which can lead to personal development and social change.

The workshop explored how architecture can contribute to the creation of playful spaces that encourage creativity, participation, and childrens development. In parallel, it investigated how a building contributes to the publicness of the city, creating porous boundaries (ambiguity) between the public and the private. 'Staging PlayTimes' re-imagines a childrens space —through small, adjustable structures —for Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre, NiMAC. This space is conceived as a place for creative activity through play, highlighting its transformative role in the museum setting.

Play was employed as, both, a principle and method for the design process, as well as for the creative use of the structures and their multiple spatial configurations. Additionally, play facilitated collaborative exchange and co-creation, integrating academic knowledge with design and making. Through teamwork, the workshop participants immersed themselves in the design process from the initial stages of developing a spatial concept to resolving construction details for the wooden and adjustable structures.

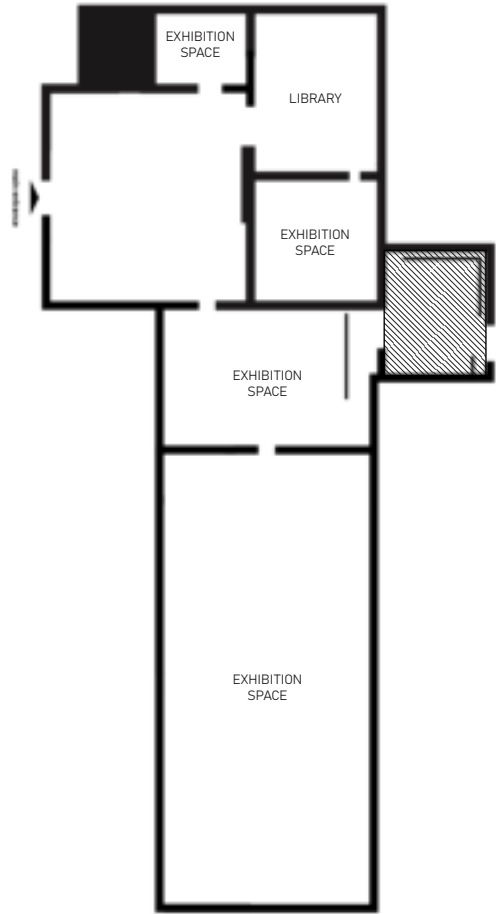
The final design proposal comprises four elements, each corresponding to a different theme: the Stage, the Archival Wall, the Shelter, and the Collective Surface. These themes were interpreted in terms of use and potential spatial configurations. The Stage was initially conceived as a space with voids to be filled in with movable structures. On its own, the Stage becomes a performative drawing machine, a screening space and a library. The Shelter is an ambiguous object for play that hosts a collective drawing, which was the outcome of a children's workshop focused on the observation and exploration of Athalassa National Park's ecosystem. The Archival Wall the Shelter, and the Collective Surface. These themes were interpreted in terms of use and potential spatial configurations. The Stage was initially conceived as a space with voids to be filled in with movable structures. On its own, the Stage becomes a performative drawing machine, a screening space and a library. The Shelter is an ambiguous object for play that hosts a collective drawing, which was the outcome of a children's workshop focused on the observation and exploration of Athalassa National Park's ecosystem. The Archival Wall is a collector of materials and objects for drawing activities and serves as a movable boundary for the stage, expanding its use. The Collective Surface creates multiple potential configurations for gathering creative synergies. When flipped 90 degrees, the Collective Surface transforms into a rocking object.

These movable structures travel through various spaces inside and outside the museum, creating different situations of creative inhabitation that blur the boundary between the building and the city. Play becomes a creative way of inhabiting and re-inventing the city.

Popi Iacovou, Christiana Ioannou, Kyriakos Miltiadou
Curators/Design Educators



SITE





ΦΑ
ΝΕ
ΡΩ
ΜΑ
ΤΑ

ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

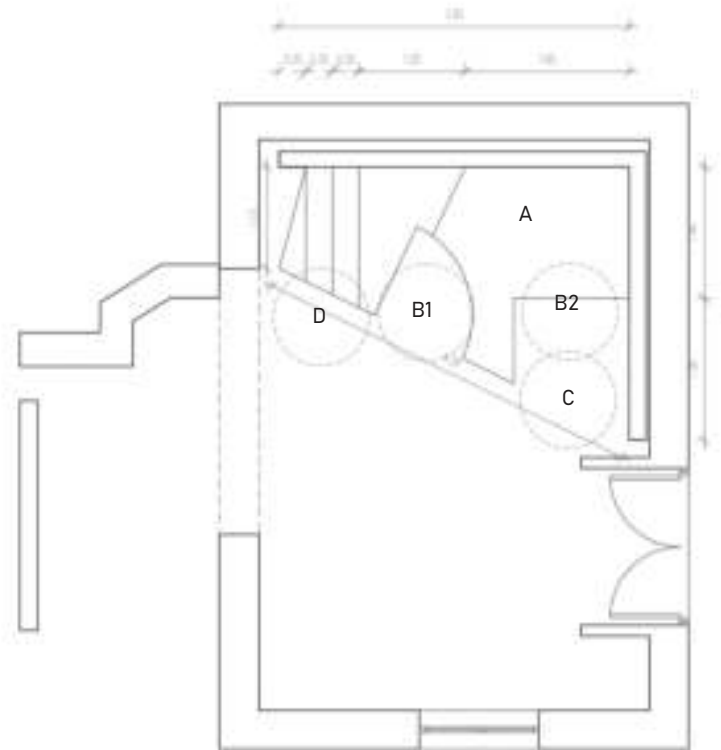
NIMAC
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ



DESIGN PROCESS

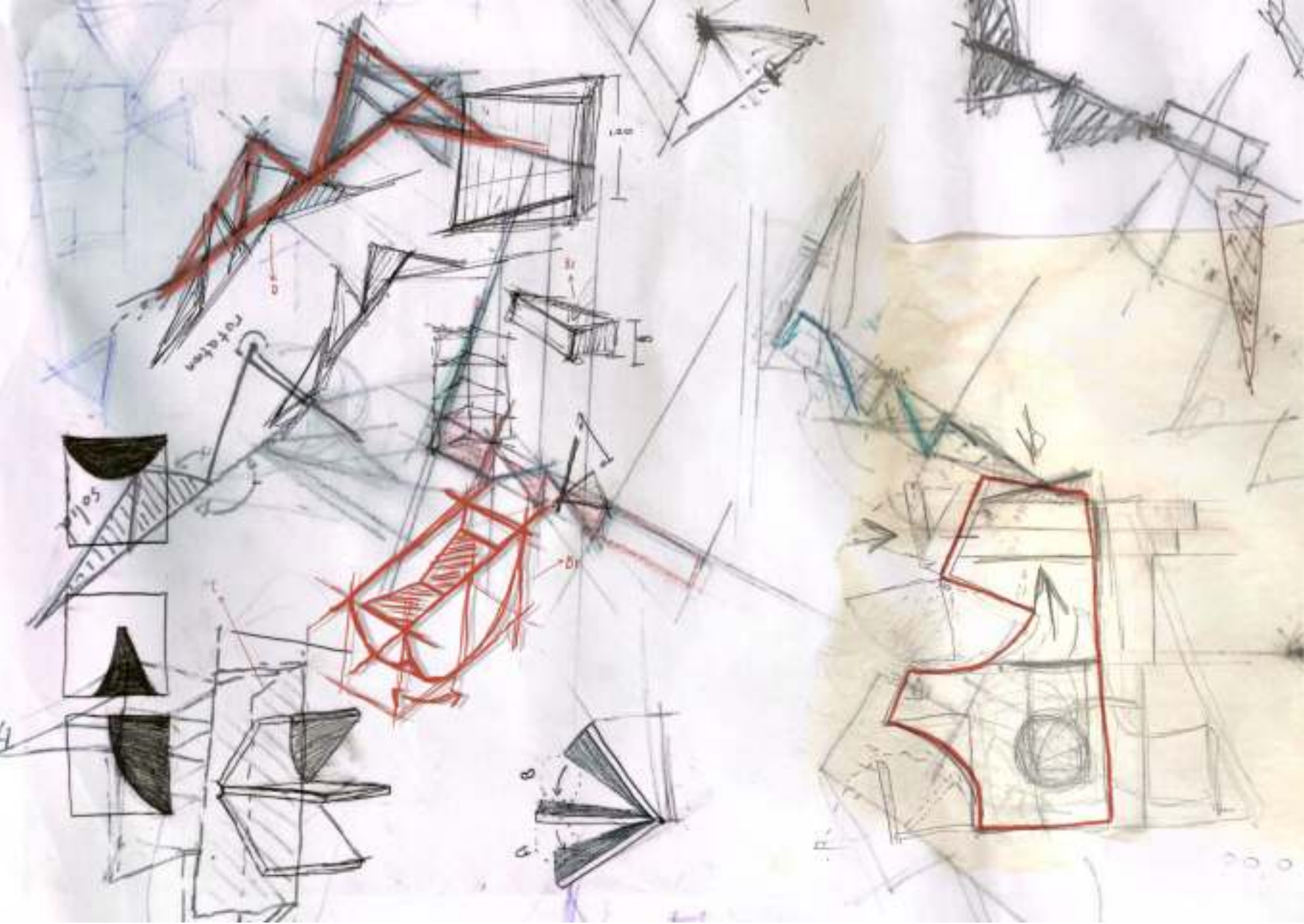


Fill the Gaps

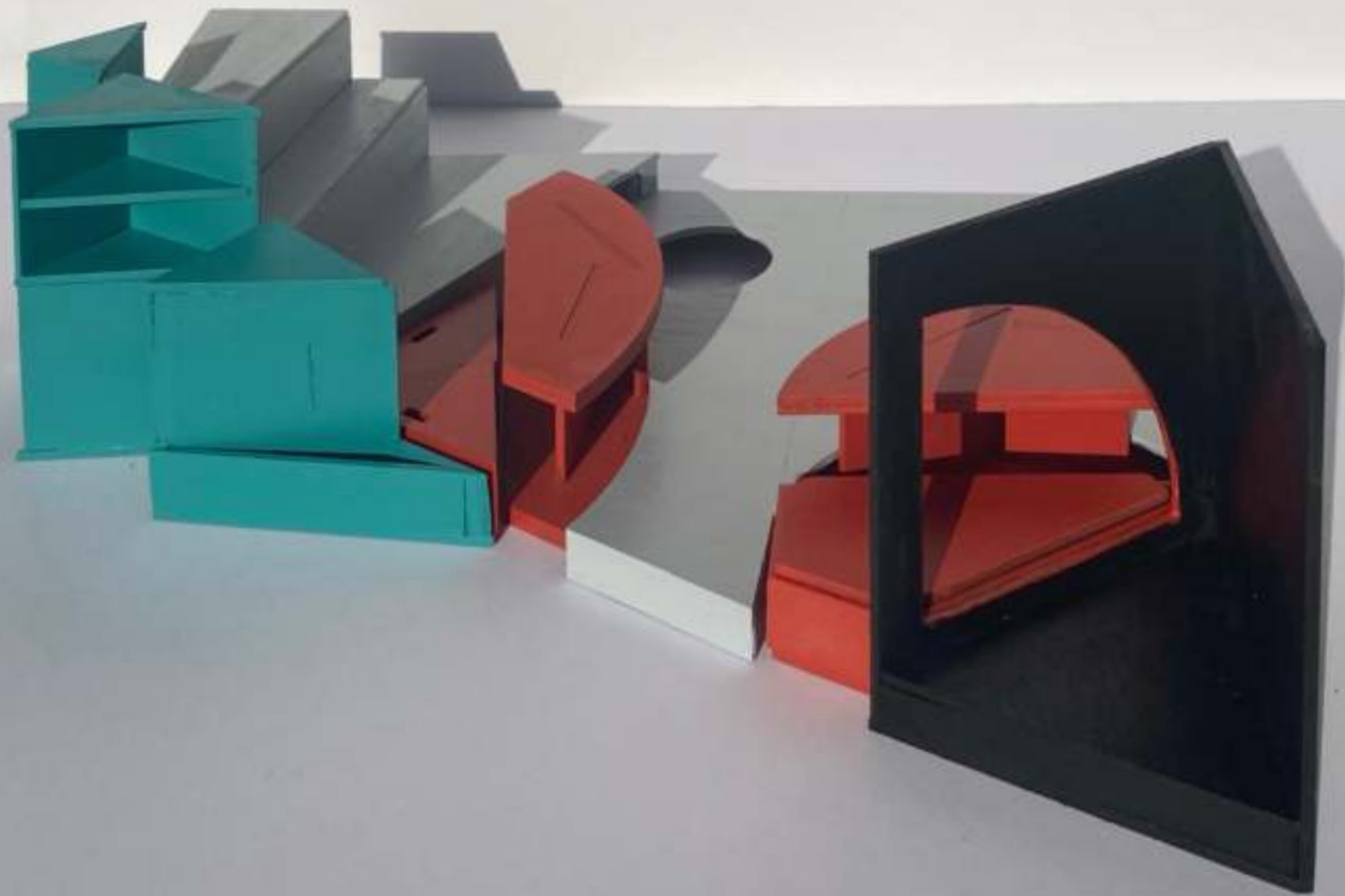


A: Stage B1/B2: Collective Surface C: Shelter D: Archival Wall









MAKING

















INSTALLATION



the powerhouse
restaurant
↓
toilets
↓













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Bios

Popi Iacovou

Popi Iacovou, Assistant Professor at the University of Cyprus, is an architect and academic investigating transdisciplinary models of thinking and practicing architecture. She received her PhD by Architectural Design from the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL and an MPhil on 'Architecture and the Moving Image' from the University of Cambridge. Previously, she taught at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design and the University of Cambridge.

Her research explores the intersections between architecture, performance and the moving image. Her methodology focuses on situated filmic practice as a design research method for the study and interpretation of cultural and socio-political architectural and urban phenomena. She is recipient of Graham Foundation Award 2024 for the research project 'Everyday Commoning: Living Diaries for Nicosia's Transnational Spaces'. She has published internationally and her films and architectural design work have been exhibited in various film festivals and architectural exhibitions, including Melbourne Design Week 2022, Copenhagen Architecture Festival (2019), the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale (2018), the 7th Biennale of Young Greek Architects (2012-2013), Hong Kong and Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism (2009), the Unbuilt (Byzantine Museum of Athens), the International Thessaloniki Film Festival and others. She has curated several architecture exhibitions for the London Festival of Architecture (2012), The Gopher Hole (London), the Kolektiv Cité Radieuse gallery, Unité d' Habitation Le Corbusier (Marseille), the State Gallery of Contemporary Art

- SPEL (Nicosia, CY) and the Artos Cultural and Research House (Nicosia).

Christiana Ioannou

Christiana Ioannou is an architect and co-founder of draftworks*. She holds a Diploma in Architecture (with a scholarship from the Hellenic Republic, IKY) and an MSc in Architectural Theory from the NTUA School of Architecture. Since 2010 she teaches Architectural Design at the School of Architecture, University of Cyprus.

Draftworks* has been awarded prizes in numerous competitions, among them a 2nd prize for a school complex in Palermo (in collaboration with Autonomieforme), an MIT award for the project 'The New Zidonians' and a 1st prize for the project 'MUUSA' at the 'Next Helsinki' Architecture Ideas Competition. Work of the studio has been published and exhibited worldwide, such as the Venice Architecture Biennale 2008 and 2012, Milano Triennale 2022, the Bauwelt magazine, the Site magazine, the Blueprint magazine and has featured in the book 'ATLAS of Emerging Practices' by Actar Publishers. The project 'A House with Four Gardens' won the first prize in the 'built project' category and the first prize in the 'colleagues' category of DOMa Awards and was also nominated for the Piranesi Award 2019 and Mies van der Rohe Award 22.

Kyriakos Miltiadou

Kyriakos Miltiadou is an architect based in Nicosia, Cyprus. He graduated from the Architecture School of the Aristotle

University of Thessaloniki (Dipl. Arch. AUTH) in 2015. His studies were funded by a scholarship from the Cypriot Scholarship Foundation (IKY). He continued his studies at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, by undertaking post-graduate research in the Advanced Architectural Research course (PGCAAR), graduating with distinction in 2017. Since 2014, he has participated and has been awarded in several architectural competitions, exhibitions and workshops nationally and internationally. In 2022 he received the State Architecture Award in the category 'Project of Young Architect'. In 2023 he was a nominee for the Mies Van Der Rohe Awards for Cyprus with his project 'Domus Laetitia'. He is currently a PhD Candidate at the School of Architecture, University of Cyprus where he also teaches Architectural Design studio and Architectural Communication Media. His research interests focus on architecture and memory, through a theoretical and practice-based lens that explores how new layers of meanings could potentially emerge in contested urban environments. His PhD studies are supported by grants from 'Sylvia Ioannou Foundation', 'IKY' and 'Evagoras Scholarship'.

Georgios Nikolas Paparoditis

Georgios Nikolas Paparoditis was born in Berlin in 1990 and grew up in Nicosia, Cyprus. He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Stuttgart, Germany, where he graduated with highest honor. During and after his studies he pursued his passions for craft and photography. After his university education he completed a traditional two-year education as a Furnituremaker at the Chamber of Crafts of

Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. Subsequently he received additional training in Japan, on the use of traditional Japanese woodworking tools, at the Atelier of Master-Woodworker Masaharu Izaki in the city of Gamagori.

He has worked as a craftsman in Furnituremaking, Modelmaking, Metalworking and Carpentry workshops in Germany, Japan and Cyprus. In parallel he has been active as an educator at the University of Stuttgart and the Crafts Academy of Freiburg, Germany. He has organized solo Photography exhibitions in Cyprus with the Goethe-Institute and the Embassy of Japan. Several of his photographs are housed in the Cyprus State Gallery of Contemporary Art. His focus lies in finding the intersection of manufacturing-methods and design-principles, seeking a balance between manual and digital labor.

Simone Philippou

Simone Philippou is a Printmaker based in Nicosia. She graduated with an MA in Visual Arts from UAL Camberwell College of Art in London, UK and an MA in Printmaking from Tokyo University of the Arts, Japan.

Her practice includes a mixture of processes spanning from traditional printmaking techniques such as stone lithography, woodblock and screen printing to papermaking and ceramics. Drawing inspiration from the animal kingdom and environmental issues, Simone is interested in exploring worlds where the Other can flourish and co-exist.

Her work explores ideas of growth, development, transformation, and ultimately, decay. Caring for the natural cycles of life, symbiosis and materiality; giving attention to the tangible process of making, and how it affects the subjectivity

of her work.

As an active member of the contemporary printmaking community, Simone takes part in international exhibitions, conferences, and symposiums. Most recent exhibitions include a solo show at the IMPACT Printmaking conference, The Printmakers Garden in Bristol, UK(2022) and the solo exhibition SESSILE at the Hambis Printmaking museum in Nicosia(2021), curated exhibitions Da Capo, a capo in Kasko Gallery Basel, Switzerland(2023) and Toxic Portraits at High Line Nine Galleries in New York, USA(2023).

Aristofanis Hadjicharalambous

Aristofanis Hadjicharalambous is a graduate of the Department of Architecture at the University of Cyprus (2020). His diploma thesis titled 'An Archive of Agricultural Landscapes' was awarded by the University of Cyprus and received the 'Sustainability and Energy' award from the Cyprus Architects Association and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Cyprus. He has participated in both local and international architectural competitions, as well as in curatorial teams for architectural and visual exhibitions, including Cyprus' participation in the 2022 Milan Triennale and the exhibition 'Past Forward: Stavros Economou Unarchived', staged at the State Gallery of Contemporary Art. He has worked with '314 Architecture Studio' in Athens, 'Baixa Atelier' in Lisbon, 'AA&U' in Nicosia, and the Laboratory of Urbanism at the University of Cyprus. Currently, he is active as an architect on projects located in Cyprus.

Mary Mavrohanna

Mary Mavrohanna is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Architecture at the University of Cyprus. Her design methodology is based on ethnographic approaches, focusing on environmental and societal issues in contemporary cities. Currently, she serves as a teaching assistant at the department and shares responsibility for the design of the department's annual magazine, JUCY. Occasionally she is a researcher for the Laboratory of Urbanism University of Cyprus, LUCY. She received her degree in Architectural Engineering at the University of Cyprus(excellent) and the Diploma of Architecture Engineer (excellent with distinction) and has previously contacted a degree in Interior Architecture at the University of Brighton.

Throughout her academic journey, has received the Thesis Award from the Cyprus Architects Association Students Awards and participated with her design thesis in the European program ENI CBCMED U-SOLVE, of the Cyprus Institute. In addition to her academic studies, she participated in workshops and competitions outside the academic environment. She contributed to La Biennale di Venezia Architettura 2021 with the project "Displaced Empire: Al Azraq Refugee Camp, Jordan," led by MIT University, where she was part of the team responsible for producing technical drawings.

Anastasia Matheou

Anastasia Matheou holds an Integrated Master of Architecture from the University of Cyprus where she graduated with distinction in 2023. She received the 1st Prize for the Annual

David Diploma Awards for her thesis 'Locus x Tales: An Eco-Archive For Future Nicosia'. She has also studied at the Politecnico di Milano as an Erasmus student between 2021-2022. Currently she is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus, focusing on narrative-driven design, visual storytelling and critical analysis. Parallel to her studies, she participated in local and international workshops, and contributed to architectural exhibitions and film screening events. Notably, she has contributed to the curation of the architectural exhibition "Past Forward: Stavros Economou Unarchived" staged at SPEL gallery in Cyprus and later in Kolektiv gallery at Unite D' Habitation in France. In addition she participated with her film 'Slipped Away' in the architectural event "Architecture Film (x10) Screening" at Artos Cultural and Research House, in Nicosia. She has been involved in the ANNFASS research program of the Cyprus Institute and worked as an intern at Nicosia's Municipal Arts Center - NiMAC where she was involved in exhibition and graphic design, digital media, and social media management.

Dimitris Nicolaou

Dimitris Nikolaou is a graduate of the five-year integrated master's program of the Department of Architecture at the University of Cyprus. He graduated from the university with an "Excellent with Distinction" rating and his thesis has been awarded by the Cyprus Architects Association and the University of Cyprus. He has completed a five-month internship at the architectural office Inside Outside B.V. by Petra Blaise in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He has contributed to the curation of the architectural exhibition "Past Forward:

Stavros Economou Unarchived" and the architectural event "Architecture Film[x10] Screening" in which a part of his work was presented. He worked through the University of Cyprus in the ANNFASS research program of the Cyprus Institute. Additionally, has studied through the ERASMUS+ program for the winter semester 2021-2022 at the Politecnico di Milano in Italy. He has participated in various local and global architectural and design workshops such as the summer workshop of the Cyprus Architects Association (2022), but also MEDS in Poland (2021) and Spain (2022).

Special thanks

We would like to warmly thank George Vesiaris from UCY FabLAB, for his invaluable help and contribution to the workshop. We also warmly thank all the workshop participants for the creative energy, positive vibe and commitment during the whole process. Lastly, our special thanks to Cyprus Architects Association for funding the Summer Workshop 2024, and NiMAC – Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre for their support and hospitality.

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