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Greek Pavilion
15th International Architecture Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia

Association of Greek Architects



Artistic Practices: Housing as social agreement

Ongoing archive

26 October – 27 November 2016

Curated by **Giorgos Papadatos & Sofia Dona**

Parallel to the workshop Co-housing practices/ Inventing Prototypes for Athens
organized by Co-Hab Athens & NetHood (Zurich) & INURA Zurich & INURA Athens

Hosted by #ThisIsACo-op Greek Pavilion, Giardini,
15th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia

Description/Concept

Postwar capitalism in the West has promoted its growth on the ideal of house ownership (with recent catastrophic financial effects) in a process of commodification of necessities of life. Commodification of housing though, more than being just a method of capital accumulation, resulted in the reconceptualisation of public and private space. Pierre Bourdieu describes a person's existential relation to their position in terms of the social status conferred by the appropriation/possession of a particular extent of physical space: "Each agent may be characterized by the place where he or she is situated more or less permanently, that is, by her place of residence (those who are "without hearth or home," without "permanent residence" ... have almost no social existence—see the political status of the homeless) ... It is also characterized by the place it legally occupies in space through properties (houses and apartments or offices, land for cultivation or residential development, etc.) which are more or less congesting It follows that the locus and the place occupied by an agent in appropriated social space are excellent indicators of his or her position in social space

Nowadays, in the wake of the recent housing crises which have subverted the notion of housing as a consumer commodity, co-housing and community projects emerge as answers to the "Housing Question". This shift towards collective solutions has been addressed by artistic, architectural and curatorial initiatives that over the past five decade have variously depicted and intervened into this unevenly developing urban condition.

"Artistic Practices: Housing as social agreement" is an ongoing archive aiming to unfold a cartography of approaches by artists to the notion of the house, investigate and challenge the ways in which housing is not only imagined, but also effectuated by artists. Furthermore intends to point out the ways in which forms of cultural production can be reclaimed as tools with which to design, defend and reinvent social space.

The works featured in the archive are organized around four leitmotifs : **'Housing as utopia'**, highlights the transformative, disruptive potential of housing in the social

imagination, as the first step to a radical autonomy. **"Housing as uneven development"** raises the issues of inequalities in the distribution of the right to housing. **"Housing as dystopic construction"** illustrated by a series of projects that explore the conflicts and correlations between the represented space of and the social and political action. **"Housing as community building"** explores the role of artist as social designer, the statial practices of commons, and arts based revitalization of under-resourced urban areas.

Featured works by

Rebecca Agnes / Jonas Dahlberg / Giorgos Gyparakis / Tea Mäkipää / Artemis Potamianou / Kostis Velonis / Erwin Wurm
Angela Ferreira / Eugenio Tibaldi / Yiannis Theodoropoulos / Mona Vatamanu Florin Tudor / Giorgos Papadatos / Dorit Margreiter / Errands / Taysir Batniji Kimsooja / Michael Rakowitz / Nicos Charalambidis / Róza El-Hassan / Tudor Bratu / Teddy Cruz / Raumlabor
Ahmet Öğüt / Sofia Dona / Marjetica Potrč / Zafos Xagoraris / Rick Lowe
Project Row Houses /

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Link to the workshop program <http://thisisaco-op.gr/en/co-housing-practices-workshop/>