



Chania, 8-10 June 2012

press release

public space | topos & means of expression

The p_public team, under the auspices of the Architects Association of Chania, Crete, organizes for the 3rd year, the p_public festival. The basic line of the festival comprises two days of public discussions and presentations, from new scientists, artists and creative teams from Greece and abroad and it will be held in the premises of the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture (C.M.A.). At the same time, a number of events and installations in the city of Chania aspire to change ephemerally or even permanently, the urban and the natural landscape of a city.

This year, the p_public team decided to envisage public space as a means and a place (or topos) of expression. The recent events, such as the "movement of squares" and the massive social demonstrations, place the public space in the centre of interest and restore certain questions as: On what bases is the modern public space structured? What does it express and who are expressed through public space?

The wider social and economic crisis of nowadays, requires a new reconsideration of the form and the operation of public spaces. New ideas and policies adapted to the new living conditions, tend to determine the planning of public space. Extraordinary situations and randomly occurring events, impose changes and adaptations in the form of the public space or/and in the consciences of its users.

Within the frame of the above considerations we invite you to think, to express your opinions and to participate actively in the discussions and the events that will be held in the city of Chania on **8-10 June 2012**.

For more information regarding the lectures and other actions, please visit our web page www.p-public.gr or contact:

info@p-public.gr (general info),

lectures@p-public.gr (lectures at C.M.A.),

events@p-public.gr (events/installations).

In order to support-sponsor our effort, please contact: funds@p-public.gr

Lectures

The lectures in the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture will take place on the **9th and the 10th of June** and are organized in four thematic units. Through them, hopefully, all those parameters shaping today public spaces and make them means and places of expression will be located and developed further.

1. The expression of a viewpoint, as a parameter of planning public spaces.

It concerns public spaces intended to serve a certain concrete purpose: political, religious, social, economic or, cultural.

2. Informal - conceptual forms of public spaces.

Means of communication that can be also characterized as public spaces in which a continuous exchange of opinions is realized, ideas and ways of expression (internet and other means of communication).

3. The configuration of public spaces, through their use.

The conscious or unconscious intervention of users in public spaces that leaves territorial imprint and determines its form and operation.

4. Provisional uses/Permanent identities.

The expression in public spaces that does not leave material traces but can affect or reverse its current identity in the eyes of the users.

Events

The theory becomes action outside of the premises of the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture. So, artistic events and interventions of all kinds, will take place in selected points of Chania, aiming to re-establish the relation of public spaces of the town with both residents and visitors. Accent will be given in using open unshaped, non-functional, abandoned spaces and in the alternative uses of existing public spaces.

The events will take place on the **8, 9 and 10 of June 2012**. Aim of these events, is to discover again our city, change the way we use, experience and conceive the natural and the urban landscape, along with respect to the traditions and the history of place.

The suggested points-places for the events, are the following:

Venetian Dockyards, Docks of Venetian Harbor, Dyke of Eastern Ditch, Municipal Market, Fortezza, Kanevaro street (next to the archaeological site), Splantzia square, Venetian Church of Saint Irene, Church of Saint Rokkos, Moceningo Rampant, Chapel Renier, the swimming-pool space of former Hotel Xenia, former factory of AVEA, urban void next to Giali Tzamisi, Town park, Amperia park etc.

The selected points will be linked via "artistic walks" in which the artists will have the possibility of presenting their work. With the objective to embrace a big part of the city, a network of artistic corridors will be created, along which the citizens and/or the visitors will be able watch a line of events. In this way, the citizens and the visitors will experience familiar and not familiar places within a different context of use.

Via this interactive movement, an alternative view of the public spaces of the city will emerge and become co-created with the participants of the walk.