info pack

SESAM
Identity 2.0

Small European Students
of Architecture Meeting

1-10 MARCH 2025
NICOSIA, CYPRUS

EASA
CYPRUS

partners

index

SESAM Identity 2.0 – Participant Guidelines & Safety Rules

Welcome to SESAM Identity 2.0! To ensure a smooth and safe experience, please take note of the following rules and guidelines.

Important Notes

The Republic of Cyprus, in the south, is a member of the European Union. However, northern Cyprus is not internationally recognised and is not part of the EU. Be aware that crossing into northern Cyprus involves legal and logistical differences, such as mobile roaming charges and currency variations.

Buffer Zone Awareness

Nicosia remains the last divided capital in Europe, with a UN-controlled Buffer Zone separating the southern and northern parts of the city. This area is strictly restricted, and entry is prohibited. Unauthorised access can result in serious legal consequences and safety risks. The Buffer Zone is monitored by UN peacekeeping forces, and you can only enter or explore it under their supervision.

You can cross to northern Cyprus only through official checkpoints. The closest ones are Ledras Street and Ledra Palace.

General Conduct & Safety

Inclusive Environment

SESAM Identity is a welcoming and inclusive space. Discrimination or harassment based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, language ability, religion, age, or ability will not be tolerated. Any behaviour involving physical violence, harassment, or non-consensual contact will result in removal from the event.

Personal Responsibility & Safety

+ Be mindful of your actions, as any incidents could impact the event and its organisers.

+ Illegal substances are strictly prohibited.

+ Keep your belongings safe. SESAM Identity is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

+ Follow all instructions given by venue staff or the organising team.

+ Smoking is prohibited inside all venues. Smoke outside.

+ Be respectful of the cultural and political sensitivities of the region.

What is EASA ?

EASA (European Architecture Students Assembly) is a longstanding, decentralized network of architecture students and young designers collaborating at the intersection of education and practice. Organized around assemblies, each year a different country within the EASA network hosts the main 2-week summer residency, with other smaller events happening throughout the year. This event is attended by around 600 international participants and consists of approximately 35 workshops, each with unique outputs. During this time, students and professionals form a self-organized community – working, studying, resting, cooking, eating, cleaning, and living together.

By bringing students to a specific context, defined by the location and theme of the assembly, EASA encourages participants to explore architectural questions through the lens of diverse European cultures. Students then elaborate on these insights and bring them to life in a non-institutional, collaborative learning environment.

The self-organized and co-produced nature of the assembly creates ideal conditions for testing alternative forms of architectural practice.

People in EASA

The different roles within EASA are what make the assembly possible.

Participants

Primarily Architecture students from all over Europe, although not necessarily, participants constitute the biggest part of the EASA community. They take part in the workshop they choose to attend during the two weeks and help in tasks such as cleaning and cooking.

National Contacts (NCs)

They are the communication link between organisers and participants, international and local. They are responsible for the distribution of information amongst the EASA network, both before and during the event, as well as selecting the participants who form the national teams each year.

Tutors

Tutors propose and guide the workshops during the assembly. They come from interdisciplinary backgrounds, they may be students, practitioners, educators... However, during EASA they are not teachers but mentors! Their role is not to lecture but to guide the participants by raising questions and initiating discussions.

Helpers

Helpers are the volunteers making EASA happen by coordinating and facilitating the different functions and logistics of the event (cleaning, cooking, transport, supply, conferences preparation, etc.) When helpers are off shift, they may choose to visit or help with workshops.

Organisers

Each year, a group of students and young professionals take on the task of hosting the assembly in their country. They are the ones responsible for the selection of the theme and curation of the programme and workshops. They are the key point of contact for any queries around potential involvement, contributions, collaborations or sponsorship. You can get in touch with the SESAM Identity organisers on:

sesamidentity@gmail.com

What is SESAM?

SESAM

SESAM (Small European Students of Architecture Meeting) is an event for the EASA community, by the EASA community. Fundamentally, the only difference between a SESAM gathering and the main EASA summer gathering is that SESAM gathers a relatively smaller group and takes place at a different date so as not to clash with EASA.

A smaller group of people allows for a more intimate exploration of the theme, making it more suitable for topics that require a delicate and refined approach.

SESAM IDENTITY 2.0'25

This event aims to unite architecture students from across Europe for a 10-day gathering with various workshops and lectures under the theme of "Identity." With the theme identity we propose to study the symbiotic relationship between architecture and identity. We aim to deepen our understanding of how architecture intersects with cultural, social, and historical contexts and to explore the impact spatial practices have on individual and collective identity and vice versa.

The distinctive character of Cypriot identity has unquestionably emerged as a compelling subject for exploration and communication within the entire European community. Inspired by Nicosia's unique status as Europe's last divided capital, we aim to foster discussions on identity and its impact on space, through a series of workshops and lectures. We strongly believe that by exploring this theme, we can deepen our understanding on how identity shapes our built environment.

The concept of identity is multifaceted, encompassing personal, social, and cultural dimensions. When explored through the lens of the built environment and social anthropology, identity becomes a powerful framework for understanding how individuals and communities relate to the spaces they inhabit and how these spaces, in turn, shape their sense of self and belonging.

What is identity?

"If identity provides us with the means of answering the question 'who am I?' it might appear to be about personality; the sort of person I am. That is only part of the story. Identity is different from personality in important respects. We may share personality traits with other people, but sharing an identity suggests some active engagement on our part. We choose to identify with a particular identity or group. Sometimes we have more choice than others... Identity requires some awareness on our part. Personality describes qualities individuals may have, such as being outgoing or shy, internal characteristics, but identity requires some element of choice. For example, I may go to football matches on Saturdays because I enjoy shouting loudly with a crowd of lively extroverts, but I go to watch Sheffield Wednesday because I want to identify with that particular team, to wear that scarf and make a statement about who I am, and, of course, because I want to state that I support one Sheffield team and not the other (Sheffield United). We may be characterised by having personality traits, but we have to identify with—that is, actively take up—an identity." (p.6)

"...although as individuals we have to take up identities actively, those identities are necessarily the product of the society in which we live and our relationship with others. Identity provides a link between individuals and the world in which they live. Identity combines how I see myself and how others see me. Identity involves the internal and the subjective, and the external. It is a socially recognized position, recognized by others, not just by me." (p.7)

Woodward, K., 2004. Questions of identity. In Questioning identity (pp. 5-41). Routledge.

To explore the theme 'identity', we propose **4** pillars on which the workshops could be developed:

PROCESSES + RITUALS

REPRESENTATION

MEMORY

PHENOMENOLOGY

Each pillar provides a distinct lens through which tutors can investigate and express the intricate relationship between identity and the built environment. We landed on these particular pillars because we believe together, these four pillars encompass a diverse range of ideas related to identity and the built environment. They are broad enough to encourage creative exploration, allow space for a more personal/from the heart approach and prevent the theme from being constrained by excessive theoretical boundaries but still provide a framework as a jumping point.

For the past few months, we have worked closely with our 'theme collaborators', Florenza Deniz İncirli (artist and visual anthropologist), Ibrahim Ince (anthropologist and artist) and Erman Dolmaci (social activist and researcher) to develop our understanding of the theme and how each of our chosen pillars relate to identity. They have generously given us their time and attended monthly meetings to discuss the theme with us as well as providing us with academic resources.

THE 4 PILLARS

1. **P + R**

PROCESSES + RITUALS

2. **R**

REPRESENTATION

3. M

MEMORY

4. P

PHENOMENOLOGY

PR
+

Coffe Shop Nicosia 2024 - A leaning chair on a doorway indicates that the shop-keeper is away but will be back shortly. This ritual influences how we use space and also demonstrates the trust amongst the community.

PROCESSES + RITUALS

Rituals are complex social processes in which we participate, forming our identities. These rituals could be religious and heritage-related, contributing to the formation of collective identity, or personal and routine-based, shaping individual identity. Therefore, activities such as going for prayer at the church, working on traditional crafts, participating in cultural festivals, as well as engaging in team sports and having weekly dinners with your family can be analysed through the lens of rituals and identity-making.

R

This chair is an object we immediately identify with our home, Cyprus. However, this chair is very typical in other countries as well, indicating that culture, art and architecture, go way further back than modern country borders. We therefore invite you to study and celebrate with us our shared identities.

REPRESENTATION

Representation is a key factor in the construction of personal and collective identity. Identity is not predetermined but rather evolves and is negotiated over time through its portrayal in monuments, history books, national discourses, popular culture and media. These portrayals, in turn, define how we understand ourselves. Thinking of identity and representation as architects encourages us to consider who is represented and who is not in the built environment, and to challenge representational binaries of "us" and "them" in our work.

"Across centuries, art has had demonstrative influences on society with the capacity to challenge opinions, instil values and translate experiences across space and time. Research has shown that art, such as painting, sculpture, music, literature has the capacity to affect a fundamental sense of self and is often considered to be the repository of a society's collective memory. Public art, which is essentially art works that are specifically created to be situated and accessed by the broader public, can be a most visible example of this. Thus, public art works like monuments, statues, and different forms of sculpture can be instrumental in representing a place or a people; in turn, public art works continuously affect a society's ideation of basic concepts such as selfhood, gender and identity."

A Space of Our Own - A Handbook on Gender and Monuments in Intersectional Public Spaces, AHDR, 2023

Cyprus 1920s - The identity of an object, like the identity of space can preserve memories from the past.

MEMORY

Memory is distinct from its analogous category of history. While historiography focuses on an objective and systematic recording of the past, memory studies takes into account the dynamic, ever-evolving, subjective, and personal ways in which we remember the past. Memory can be individual or collective. Memory studies deeply engage with unofficial retellings of the past, including oral traditions, stories, and personal interactions. For an architect, engaging with memories can be helpful in considering multiple perspectives and histories of space, and understanding how the past is experienced and remembered on an individual basis.

"In vain, great-hearted Kublai, shall I attempt to describe Zaira, city of high bastions. I could tell you how many steps make up the streets rising like stairways, and the degree of the arcades' curves, and what kind of zinc scales cover the roofs; but I already know this would be the same as telling you nothing. The city does not consist of this, but of relationships between the measurements of its space and the events of its past... As this wave from memories flows in, the city soaks it up like a sponge and expands. A description of Zaira as it is today should contain all of Zaira's past. The city, however, does not tell its past, but contains it like the lines of a hand, written in the corners of the streets, the gratings of the windows, the banisters of the steps, the antennae of the lightning rods, the poles of the flags, every segment marked in turn with scratches, indentations, scrolls."

Italo Calvino 'Invisible Cities'

P

Nicosia, Cyprus 2024 - There are some noises and smells that we immediately identify with a certain place. The sound of the tavli or tavla, instantly transfers us to a coffee shop in old town Nicosia.

PHENOMENOLOGY

Phenomenology is an intellectual framework interested in how people's lived experiences with their environment affect their perception. Simply put, it interrogates how our bodies serve as intermediaries between the outside world—the natural and built environment—and our inner selves, our minds. It is relevant to the theme as a thinking tool for understanding the role our bodily interactions in space play in forming our identity.

"The body is our general medium for having a world. / Our body is not an object among objects; it is our mode of being in the world. / Perception is not just an individual act, but it is embedded in social and cultural contexts. / The body and the world are intertwined, and our perception of the world is always mediated through our embodied experience."

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology of Perception

Phenomenology in architecture focuses on the experience of space and place, considering how buildings and environments are perceived through sensory experiences.
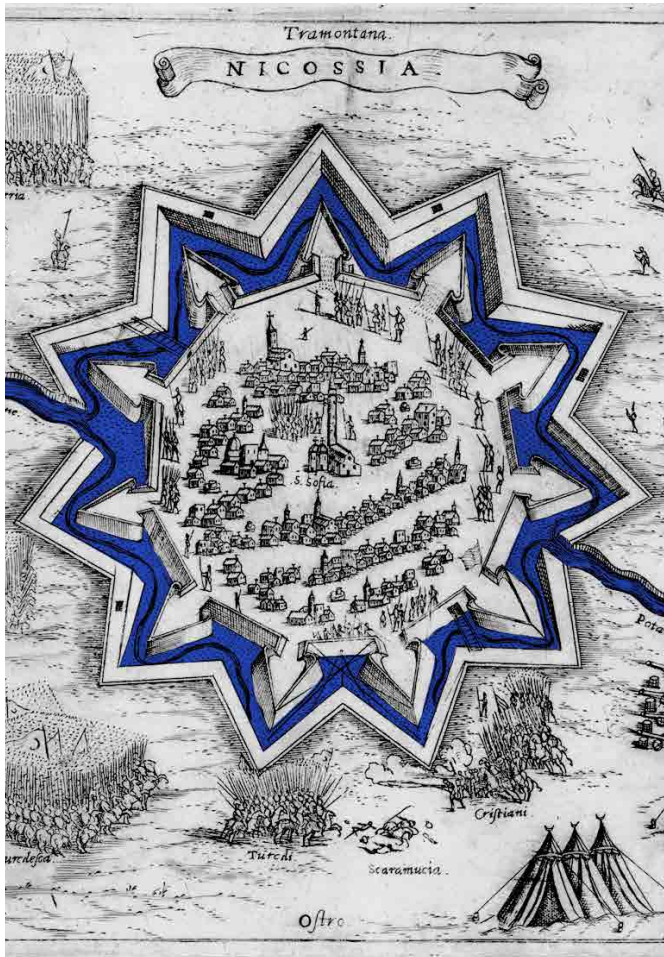
Historical Context

Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean, lies on the crossroad of three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa. This strategic position has made Cyprus a target for numerous civilizations throughout history, resulting in a rich and diverse cultural heritage that continues to shape the island's identity.

Nicosia, the capital city, situated at the heart of Cyprus, best represents this melding of different political and cultural influences. The city bears the architectural and cultural imprints of its successive rulers, including the Byzantines, Franks, Venetians, Ottomans, and, more recently, the British. A testament to this layered history is the Venetian walls, a prominent feature of the city centre today.

The upcoming Sesam Identity event will be held within these historic walls, highlighting the enduring legacy of Nicosia's architectural evolution. The walled city, with a compact circumference of 5 kilometres, offers a concentrated experience of the diverse cultural and architectural influences that have shaped its identity.

Recent history

The recent history of Cyprus is deeply influenced by its time under British rule (1889-1959), which significantly shaped the island's politics. From 1955-1959, the EOKA (National Organization of Cypriot Fighters), led by Greek Cypriots, launched a rebellion against British control, aiming to end colonial rule and unite Cyprus with Greece (Enosis). The British government's harsh response to the rebellion marked the beginning of the conflict between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, escalating tensions and deepening divisions between the two communities.

Cyprus gained independence from British colonial rule in 1960, establishing the Republic of Cyprus as a sovereign, bicommunal state, with a Greek Cypriots President and a Turkish Cypriots Vice- president. Greek, Turkish, and English were designated as the official languages of the new republic and continue to be so today. The independence agreement appointed Turkey, Greece, and Britain as guarantors of the new government, tasked with maintaining the island's stability and ensuring the protection and security of both Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

However, the post-independence period was marked by escalating intercommunal conflicts. Three years after the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus, in 1963, the divide and conquer strategy of the British, resulted in armed conflicts between the two communities. The British marked a line on the map of Nicosia, the so-called "Green Line", to separate Greek Cypriots from Turkish Cypriots.

In 1974, a Greek military coup—backed by the junta in Athens—overthrew the democratically elected Cypriot government and sought to unify Cyprus with Greece. Under the pretext of protecting Turkish Cypriots, Turkey launched a military invasion of Cyprus. This invasion led to the occupation of the northern part of the island by Turkish forces and the declaration of the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

In the aftermath of the war, thousands of Cypriots were forcibly displaced from their homes. The island was split into two parts, with a UN-controlled buffer zone—marked in black on map—separating the north and south. Today the southern part of the island is governed by the internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus, an EU member state primarily inhabited by Greek Cypriots. The northern part remains under the illegal occupation of the Turkish military, where the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognized only by Turkey, is situated. This area is predominantly inhabited by Turkish Cypriots.

NICOSIA
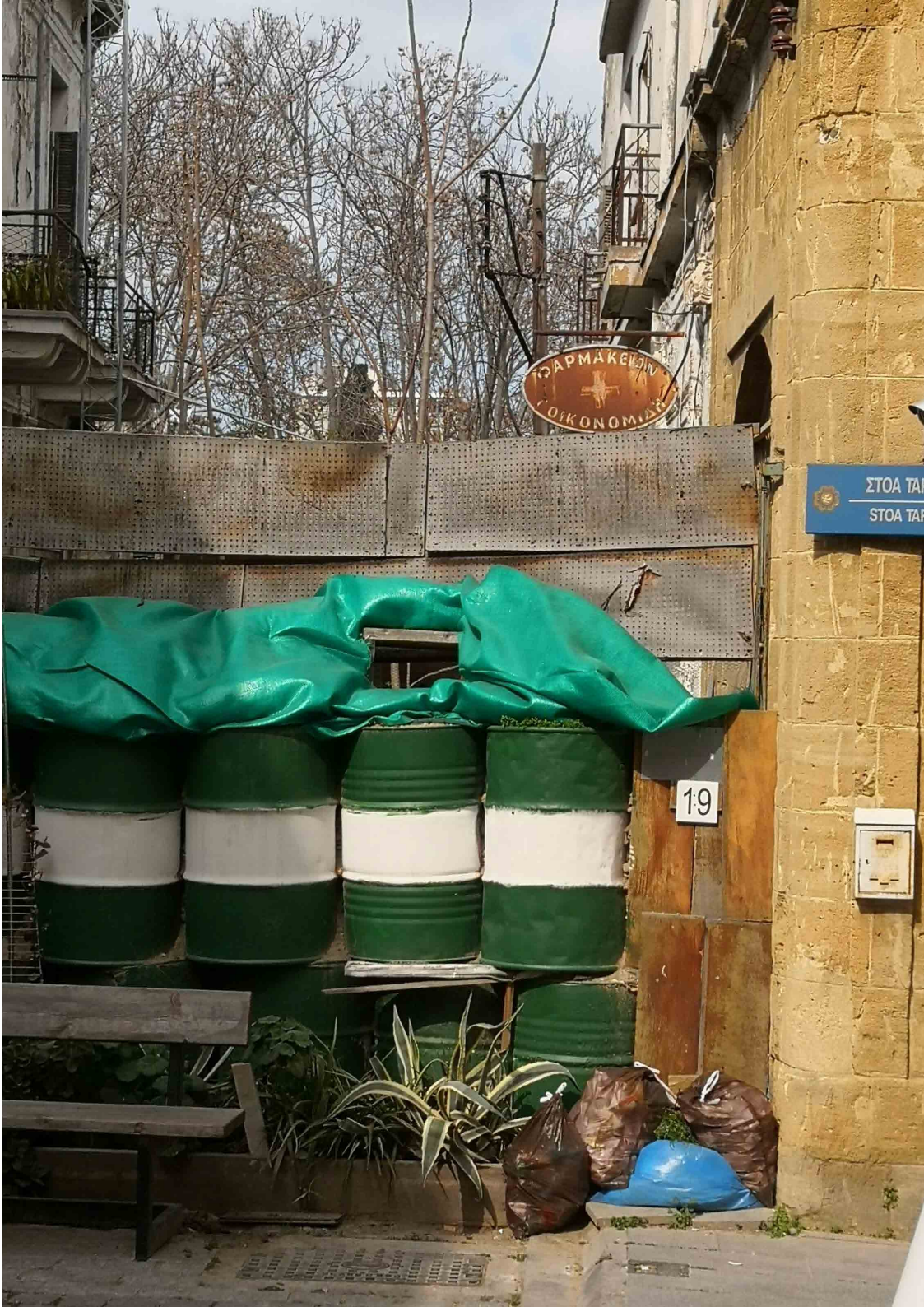
ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΙΟΝ
ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΔΗ

ΣΤΟΑ ΤΑ
STOA TAP

19

For nearly 30 years, residents on both sides of the island were unable to cross the buffer zone. The two communities, who used to live together, were displaced and separated. In 2003, the first checkpoint opened, allowing Cypriots to visit the homes they were forced to abandon decades earlier. This reopening facilitated new interaction between the two communities. Despite ongoing negotiations over the past 50 years regarding the future of Cyprus, a conclusion has not yet been reached.
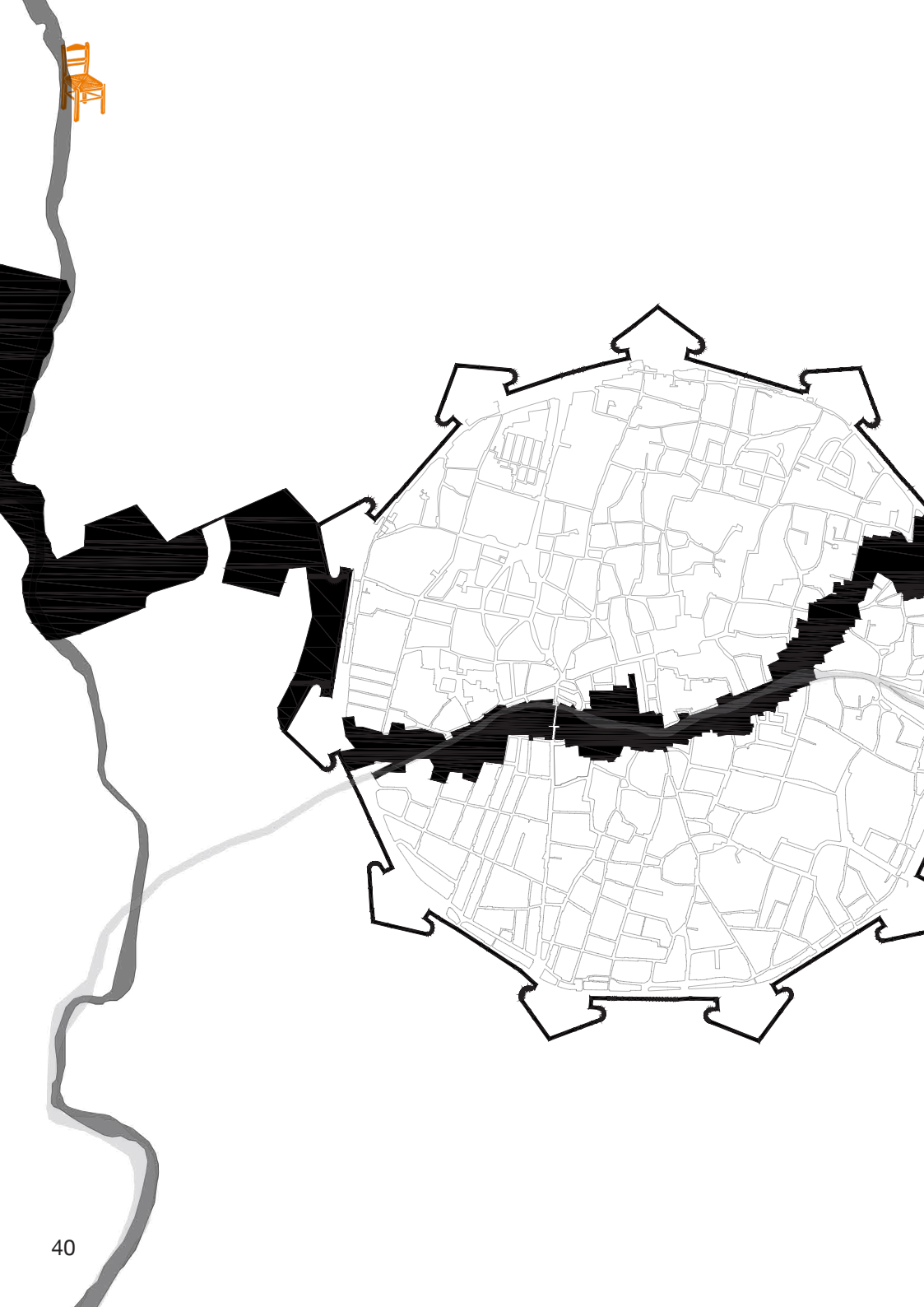
LOCATION

Nicosia, where SESAM Identity will be held, is where the division is most strongly felt, as the buffer zone runs directly through the city centre. Historically, the dividing line in Nicosia has taken various forms and meanings. What was once a river separating economic classes was later diverted by the Venetians to create the city walls. For centuries, the northern bank of the old river-bed was home to the ruling class, while the southern bank housed the commoners. Today, this former natural boundary has become a manmade one, marking the buffer zone that divides the city.

Nicosia's history of division invites reflection on other forms of separation in urban spaces. We encourage participants to draw inspiration from Nicosia's experience and consider the lines that divide identities within their own cities—whether they be rich and poor, old and new, or clean and dirty. We look forward to your interpretations.

1 **Ledra Palace**
[Opening+Closing ceremony]

The Old Hous
[Accommodation]
Lefkonos 13, Nicos

Eleftheria square

6 **The Penthouse**
[Accomodation]
Anthimou Gazi 5, 1090

4 Meres

[workshops]

Pentadaktylou 33, Nicosia 1016

5 Melina Mercouri

[workshops]

Athinas, Nicosia 1016

2

sia 1011

e
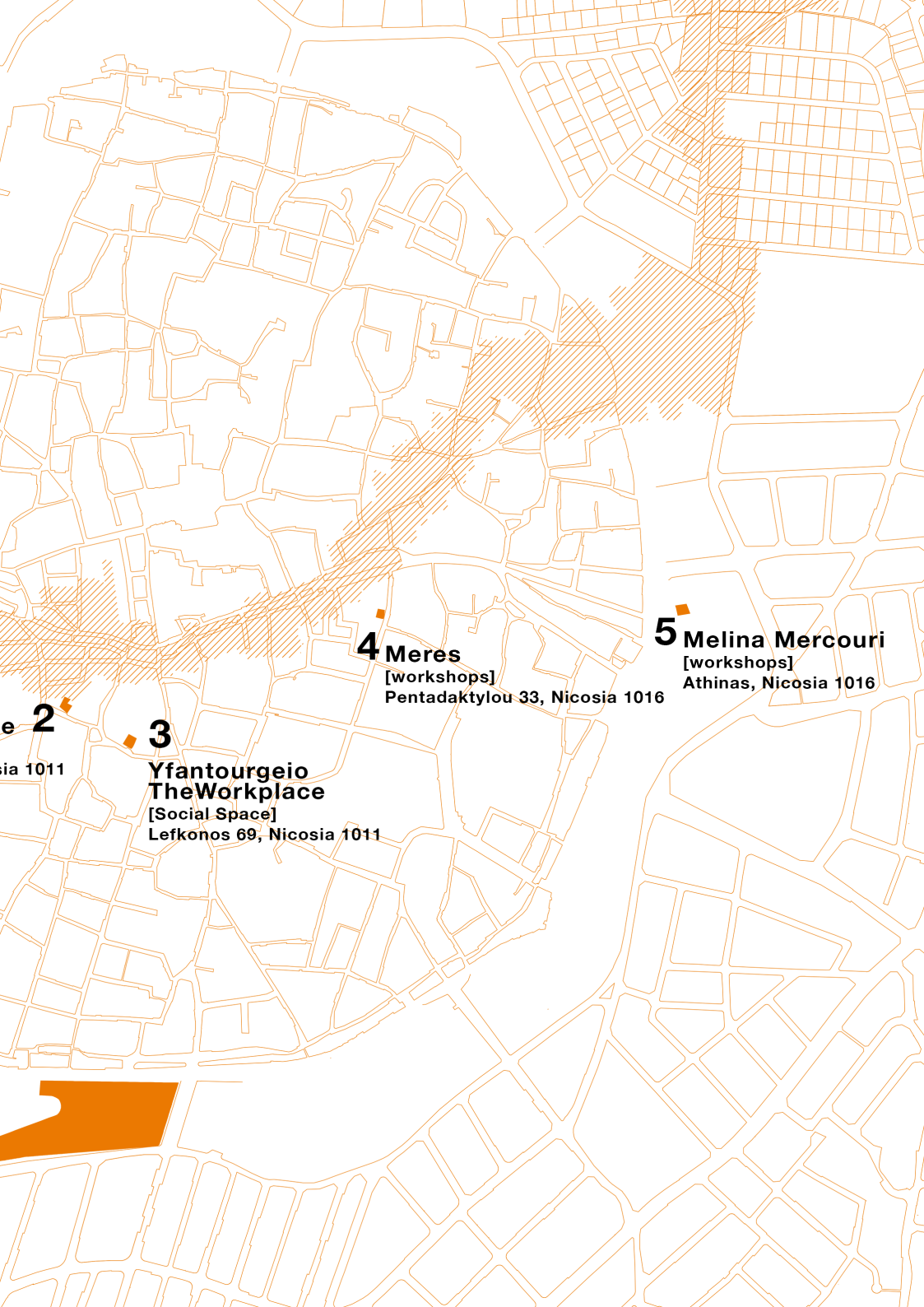
3

Yfantourgeio
TheWorkplace

[Social Space]

Lefkonos 69, Nicosia 1011

Rules by Location

The Old House [Accommodation]

+ Respect The Old House as it is a historic 100-year-old building.

+ Keep the north-facing windows closed at all times for security, as they face the Buffer Zone.

+ Do not attempt to access the roof. This area is restricted.

+ Use the wooden stairs carefully, as they are delicate. To ease traffic, use the back stairs when possible.

+ Maintain a quiet environment. The Old House is meant for rest—please use the social space for late-hour activities.

Social Space

+ The bar is located in the Yfantourgeio The Workplace and will be open only for a limited time each night, from 7pm-1:30 am. Please respect the schedule.

+ When event staff or helpers indicate that it is time to leave, please comply promptly.

+ Drink responsibly. We are in the city centre, which is a residential area. Be mindful of noise and respectful of the surroundings.

Workshop Spaces [Melina Mercouri & Meres]

+ Both Melina Merkouri and Meres are open from 9 AM to 8 PM. Please respect these times.

+ Multiple sessions take place in these venues. Be mindful of ongoing activities and respect each workshop's schedule.

+ The toolbox is located at Meres. If your workshop requires tools, return them to their designated space. If your workshop is at Melina Merkouri, return tools by the end of the day.

+ The backyard of Meres borders the Buffer Zone. Keep a safe distance and do not engage with the area.

+ Keep both venues tidy and dispose of waste properly.

Day-to-Day Life at SESAM Identity

Sleeping Arrangements

+ Keep your sleeping area tidy. Store personal items within your aisle and avoid blocking walkways.
+ Dry clothes outside to prevent moisture buildup.
+ Do not leave food or crumbs around sleeping areas.

Dining

+ Arrive on time for meals. Service will end when the scheduled shift is over.
+ Wait in an orderly queue for food. The kitchen team will distribute meals.
+ Clean up after yourself! Wash your plate and cutlery in the designated areas after eating. Food will be served in plastic boxes—please recycle.

Valuables

+ Use common sense when in the city. Do not leave valuables or tools unattended.
+ A safe room is available at The Old House to store valuable items.
+ SESAM Identity is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged belongings.

Showering & Toilets

Be quick, be clean, and do not leave hair behind.

By following these guidelines,
we can ensure a safe, respectful,
and enjoyable experience for all.
Thank you for your cooperation,
and we look forward to an
inspiring SESAM Identity 2.0!

The SESAM Identity 2.0
Organising Team

time-table

Social space open from 7pm -1:30am

1st March
Saturday

Breakfast
[melina mercouri]
8:00

Lunch
[melina mercouri]
13:00

Dinner
[social space]
19:30

2nd March
Sunday

Breakfast
[melina mercouri]
8:00

Opening ceremony at Ledra Palace

Welcoming Remarks
by **EASA Cy**
9:00-10:15

Cyprus Recent History
by **EASA Cyprus**
10:30 - 11:30

Lunch
[Ledra Palace]
12:30 - 13:30

Workshop presentations
13:30-16:30

Workshop Fair & Selection
16:30 - 18:30

Dinner
[Ledra Palace]
19:30

Distribution of workshop participants to their workshops
21:00

3rd March
Monday

Breakfast
[melina mercouri]
9:00

Workshops
10:00-13:00

Lunch
[melina mercouri]
13:00

Workshops
14:00-19:30

Dinner
[social space]
19:30

Evening Presentations
[social space]
20:30 - 22:00

EASA Ireland
EASA Italy
EASA Latvia
EASA Archive
EASA Serbia

4th March
Tuesday

Breakfast
[melina mercouri]
9:00

Workshops
10:00-13:00

Lunch
[melina mercouri]
13:00

Workshops
14:00-19:30

Dinner
[social space]
19:30

Evening Panel Discussion
[social space]
20:30 - 22:00

"Reclaiming Public Spaces for Social Inclusion and Sustainability"

Yiorgos Hadjichristou
Department of architecture of University of Nicosia & Urban Gorillas

Iacovos Loizou OPU Organisation for Positive Urbanism and the University of Cyprus

5th March
Wednesday

Breakfast
[melina mercouri]
9:00

Workshops
10:00-13:00

Lunch
[melina mercouri]
13:00

Workshops
14:00-19:30

Dinner
[social space]
19:30

Evening lectures
[social space]
20:30 - 22:00

"Queer Ecologies"

Erman Dolmacı
University of Cyprus

"Queer Performance"

Tahini Molasses

6th March
Thursday

Breakfast
8:30

Excursion day
Famagusta/ Varosha

Leave the house
9:00

Bus takes off from the north
10:00

Lunch
13:00

"We are not Ghosts: Poetics of Place Memory"

Nafia Akdeniz
12:30-13:30

Return to Nicosia
18:30

Dinner
[social space]
20:30

7th March
Friday

Breakfast
[melina mercouri]
9:00

Workshops
10:00-13:00

Lunch
[melina mercouri]
13:00

Workshops
14:00-19:30

Dinner
[social space]
19:30

Evening lectures
[social space]
20:30 - 22:00

"The building is hers"

Eleonora Antoniadou
Architecture Department of the Royal College of Arts in London

"How must we tell the history of the defeated?"

Christos Hadjiioannou
Philosophy Department of University of Nicosia

8th March
Saturday

Breakfast
[melina mercouri]
9:00

Workshops
10:00-13:00

Lunch
[melina mercouri]
13:00

Workshops
14:00-19:30

Dinner
[social space]
19:30

Free Night

time-table

Social space open from 7pm -1:30am

9th March
Sunday

Breakfast
9:00

Expo Day | Closing ceremony at Ledra Palace

Workshop presentations
10:00-12:00

Lunch
[Ledra Palace]
12:30 - 13:30

Public exhibition
14:00-19:00

Dinner+ PARTY
[Antonakis Music Hall]
19:30-1:00

10th March
Monday

Breakfast
9:00

Cleaning
10:00-13:00

Lunch
13:00 - 14:00

Cleaning
14:00-19:30

Dinner
[social space]
19:30

Emergency Contacts

In case of an emergency, use the following contact numbers:

Republic of Cyprus (South)

Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance): 112 or 199

SESAM Cyprus Organising Team (South): +357 97752406 (Marina)

Northern Cyprus

Police: 155

Fire Brigade: 199

Ambulance: 112

SESAM Cyprus Organising Team (North): +90 548 820 1538 (Asya)

If you need help, notify the nearest available SESAM team member.

♟ workshops

Wunderkammer

Welcome to the Wunderkammer, our cabinet of curiosities! We want to explore identity of one's own community and the social landscapes we temporarily inhabit through a questioning of the personal artifact as an identity code. Let's explore Nicosia through a personal, itemized lens and tell identity shaping stories through visual media - by disassociating elements of domesticity, the archive itself becomes performative.

tutors:
Boško Ristić
Angela Krstevska
Ulrike Fiebig
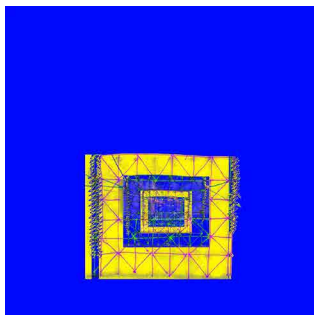
Urban Partition: The Space in Between

The workshop 'Urban Partition: The Space in Between' will aim to look at the United Nations Buffer Zone in Nicosia, Cyprus, which divides different communities, and challenge the idea that such spaces are permanent or unchangeable. Instead of seeing the buffer zone as a single, fixed space, the workshop will focus on breaking it down into smaller parts and explore how small changes in the space, as interpreted theoretically, could lead to bigger changes in society and politics. The goal is to understand how architecture can create more inclusive spaces without removing physical borders while rebuilding inter-communal relations.

tutor:
Vasilios Frantzis
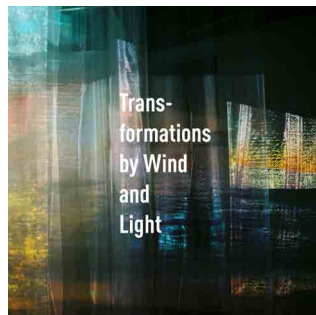
Transformations by Wind and Light

Transformations by Wind and Light explores the properties of lightweight, semi-transparent materials, examining their behavior in various scenarios. Light, movement, and video imagery act as key factors that aim to create unexpected complexities. The workshop's outcome will be a lightweight installation that reflects collective research and experimentation.

tutor:
Marina Urosevic

SESAM FM

Most events do not necessitate a radio station, but SESAM is not simply any other event. **SESAM FM** is a nomadic radio station which follows in the tradition of prior events, hosting talk shows, music, parties, soundscapes, noise, rumors, mystery, and your audio desires all in a radio format.

tutor:
Luke Ellul

Mon Tonton Tond Ton Tonton

Please, take a seat, anywhere you can sit is fine!

The workshop **Mon Tonton Tond Ton Tonton** aims to explore the concepts of belonging, division, and reconciliation through the creation of symbolic objects: chairs made from parts collected from barbershops in two areas of the city. The idea is to gather chairs from both sides everyday items that simultaneously symbolize the two identities then dismantle them into distinct components: legs, seats, and backs. Next, the pieces are interwoven and reassembled with the help of paracord, a strong, flexible material, to create "hybrid" chairs that blend the materials, colors, and forms of both communities.

tutor:
Pierfrancesco Lisi

Intertwined

Intertwined aims to explore the city of Nicosia, record its specific visual identity and intertwine it with the experience of the locals and participants. In an effort to learn from the city first-hand, we are going to visit various public spaces and people, documenting our journey by collecting stories, items and taking photographs along the way.

Once we collect these elements, we will process them with various techniques such as collaging, stitching and printing, and turn them into graphic representations of our experiences there. The final product will be a series of prints, collages and textile work, presenting our research and sparking conversations on the fragments we connected.

tutors:
Zeynep Sude Ulgen
Milica Rajkovic

workshops
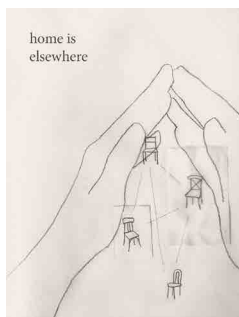
Home is elsewhere

An interdisciplinary work-shop on multidimensional relations between home and identity. We will look into the notion of home, place-making, and at-tachment in the face of challenges, emigration or abuse.

tutors:
Wiktor Ignatjew-Zielonka
Mela Gregorczyk
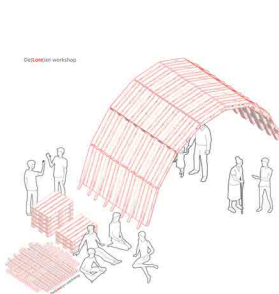
The De(Lore)an Workshop

Assembled with reclaimed pallets and shared per-spectives.

The De(Lore)an Workshop is a roaming archive that explores oral tradition, ma-terial culture, and identity, by investigating the collec-tion and dissemination of information.

tutors:
Rory Staunton
Ali Staats
Matthew Borne
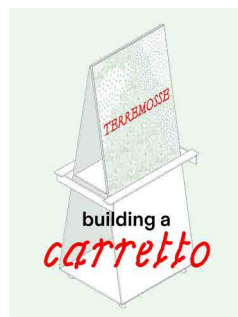
Building a Carretto

A carretto (a small cart) is a wheeled wooden con-struction used to move materials. Our workshop builds and uses the carret-to to collect materials (sug-gestions, feelings, objects) and to showcase progress about the next SESAM event, which will happen in Amatrice (Italy) in spring 2026.

tutors:
Giovanni Telve
Alessandra Ledda

Borderline II/Legal

Rem Koolhaas on the Berlin Wall:
'I basically went there to stare architecture in the face, it has an inevitable element of violence, and an inevitable performance of exclusion and inclusion.'

Borderline II/Legal explores borders; how they are created, maintained, performed, experienced, resisted, and enforced. This performative and explorative workshop exceeds mere ethical discussions on borders, but aims to challenge and explore their creation.

tutors:
Sara Dobrijevic
Fran Cassar
Jakob D'herde

All Manners of Banners

All Manners of Banners is a Flag design workshop, questioning how simple, flowing fabrics can dually mean everything and nothing - Depending on who you ask.

tutors:
Louis Devane
Kate Hunter Hanley

lectures

Reclaiming Public Spaces for Social Inclusion and Sustainability

Panel Discussion

The discussion will explore the role of inclusive and sustainable public spaces in urban life, practical interventions for transforming urban spaces, and the challenges faced in cities like Nicosia. Attendees will gain insights into how citizens can actively shape their urban environment and learn from specific projects and strategies

Yiorgos Hadjichristou
Iacovos Loizou

Queer Ecologies of Cyprus: Rethinking Identity Beyond Boundaries

What makes a space queer? How do bodies, spaces, and identities entangle in queer ecologies? In this session, we will inquire about the entanglements of queerness and naturecultures, thinking through the ways spaces hold histories, how identities unfold within them, and where the binaries are blurred.

While asking the question "Where do queer lives flourish?" we will move through moments of the queer movement in Cyprus. In doing so, we will read space differently—through images, through stories, through the cracks where something new emerges.

This is not a lecture with answers but a conversation with possibilities. A space to listen, to unlearn, to imagine otherwise. Whether you come with questions or simply curiosity, let's think together about how queerness reshapes not just identity but the very landscapes we move through.

Erman Dolmacı

Queer Performance

A 30 minute live set performance from Tahini Molasses. A Cypriot musician and performance artist whose work explores history, nostalgia and queerness.

Tahini Molasses

How must we tell the history of the defeated?

Systematic dialectical thinking shows that the identity of any given thing is inherently paradoxical: it is shaped through difference and contradiction. In narrating the history of a subject (be it a people, a place, or any other determinate identity), one must trace its unfolding contradiction and subsequent resolutions, which ultimately give rise to the formation of the identity. As Hegel famously stated: "the truth is the whole."

However, such a systematic dialectical history often becomes the story of the victor, because it is recounted from the perspective of the dominant subject – the identity that has established itself after having resolved past contradictions. Walter Benjamin reminds us that if we are to tell the story of the defeated and the marginalized, it must instead be a story of catastrophe. The history of the defeated is a bleak history of destruction, where instead of a chain of events leading to a coherent identity, we witness an accumulating wreckage of devastation, a single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage.
In this lecture, I will examine Walter Benjamin's ninth thesis from Theses on the Philosophy of History and explore its implications for architects in understanding history and identity.

Christos Hadjioannou

'We Are Not Ghosts': Poetics of Place Memory

Place memory refers to the way spaces become places imbued with meaning, emotions and narratives that shape individuals' and communities' collective memory. It is the cognitive ability to remember spatial layouts as well as the interaction of personal and cultural narratives that form how a place is remembered and experienced. In the wake of the abandoned city Varosha's partial opening to public visits in October 2020 allowing the former Greek Cypriot residents to walk again in their city after five decades of military capture, a new kind of mnemonic resistance has started. Among the spectators strolling vicariously through the remnants of life lived there in the past, Varoshians purposely walk as an act of claiming the place, place attachment and place memory. 'We are not ghosts': Poetic embodiment of public space memory in Varosha is a poetry-based sound-walking drawing on my ethnographic research on Varosha narratives. It focuses on public spaces of Varosha in the partially accessible areas: the sea, the garden, and the agora. The project focuses on the human impact of Varosha / Famagusta history in the context of ongoing Cyprus conflict, and it is an experimental exercise of how to be in a traumatic place between the past and the future aiming to create new empathic understandings.

Nafia Akdeniz

The building is hers

The history of architecture has often been written without acknowledging the contributions of women. Female architects have not always received the recognition they deserve for their work. In the newly established state of Cyprus in 1960, architecture was mainly associated with male figures, leaving little visibility for female architects. This presentation will shed light on the often hidden identities of female architects in Cyprus, their work, and their influence on the city and the built environment.

Eleonora Antoniadou

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lectures bios

Yiorgos Hadjichristou

Yiorgos Hadjichristou is an architect, professor at the University of Nicosia and member of the NGO Urban Gorillas. He is a recipient of architecture awards, including the State Architecture Award and nominations for the Mies Van Der Rohe. He is co-editor or five books and author of one book. He co-curated the Milan Trienale-2016 and Venice Architecture Biennale-2018 Cyprus Pavilion.

Iacovos Loizou

Iacovos Loizou is an urban planner, researcher, and artist based in Nicosia. He holds an MSc in Urban Design and City Planning from UCL and has over six years of experience in sustainable mobility planning, urban design, and academic research. As the co-founder of OPU Collective, a non-profit organization, he is actively engaged in urban resilience, soft mobility, the climate crisis, and social issues. He is also a researcher at the University of Cyprus in the Department of Architecture, contributing to Erasmus+ funded projects. Additionally, he serves on the board of the Sustainable Mobility and Road Safety Committee under the Cypriot Technical Advisor of the State and Citizens.

Erman Dolmacı

Erman Dolmacı, born in Cyprus, has a diverse educational background in Environmental Engineering, Sociology, Sustainable Energy Systems, and Atmospheric Sciences. Currently, they are doing PhD in Gender Studies at the University of Cyprus focusing on Queer Ecologies. With nearly ten years of experience in LGBTI+ activism, Erman has worked on various significant projects and is passionate about the intersectionality of struggles in areas such as veganism, anti-militarism, feminism, ecology, and LGBTI+ rights.

Christos Hadjioannou

Christos Hadjioannou is Associate Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Nicosia. He held various teaching and research positions at the University of Cyprus, Cyprus University of Technology, University College Dublin, University of Sussex, and Freie Universität Berlin. He earned his PhD from the University of Sussex in 2015. His work focuses on phenomenology and existentialism. He has edited several volumes and special issues, and has published numerous articles and chapters. For more information on his work, visit his website: www.christoshadjioannou.com

Nafia Akdeniz

Nafia Akdeniz is a poet, ethnographer, and interdisciplinary qualitative researcher. She studies English Literature and Humanities (BA, MA) and Communications (Ph.D.) in the Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta, Cyprus. Born in 1975 into the post-war conflict of her divided island, Cyprus, she feels she is a citizen of border, buffer zone and all the in-betweennesses. That state of being-in-between inspires her poetry and organic academic interests: home, place, displacement, peace, memory, and narrative. She constantly merges her creative and scholarly studies. She is an advocate of community-driven academia. Her recent scholarly publication is titled "Hope in the Ruins of Home: Narrative Meaning Making of Forced Displacement, Place Attachment and Deferred Future Resettlement in Varosha (Journal of Refugee Studies, Oxford University Press). Her recent poetry-based project on public space memory of Varosha is a geo-triggered sound-walking titled 'We Are Not Ghosts: Varosha Narratives (in collaboration with D6:EU). She is currently working on a manuscript exploring her experiment on transferring ethnographic data into poetry.

Eleonora Antoniadou

Eleonora Antoniadou is an architect, an educator and a researcher. Her researchfocuseson bodies as learning tools in architectural pedagogy and as platforms for interdisciplinary knowledge exchange. She explores the possibilities of learning from the radical pedagogies of the 1970s where bodies left the typical classroom to travel, build ephemeral structures, discover the countryside, party, protest for better education, demand equality, and question the institutions. Since 2012, she has been an architecture educator at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She taught at several Universities internationally including the Royal College of Art, Ravensbourne University, University of Hertfordshire, Oxford Brookes, Frederick University and the University of Nicosia. She is the founding director of Superside Studio, an interdisciplinary practice dedicated to design, construction, and research. Her work and various collaborative projects have been awarded, published, and shown internationally including the 16th and 17th Venice Architecture Biennale, Architectural Association's Gallery, Design Museum London, Copeland Gallery, Benaki Museum Athens, Point Gallery and Thkio Ppalies Cyprus. Eleonora holds a degree in Architecture from AUTH, an MA from the Architectural Association, and an MRes fromthe Royal College of Art, where she is currently a PhD candidate.

organisers
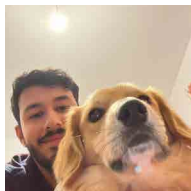
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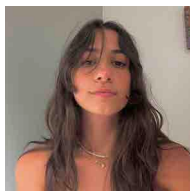
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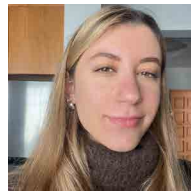
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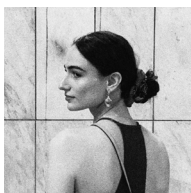
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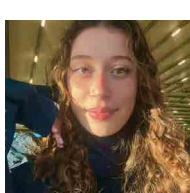
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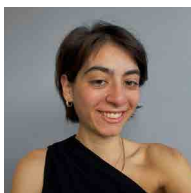
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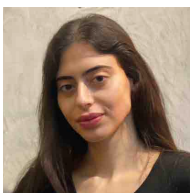
Olga Papadopoulou

Semeli Mita

Ioanna Barbouteli

Stylianos Hadjipanteli

tutors

Boško Ristić
Serbia

Angela Krstevska
Macedonia

Ulrike Fiebig
Germany

Vasilios Frantzis
Cyprus

Marina Urosevic
Serbia/Austria

Luke Ellul
Malta

Pierfrancesco Lisi
Italy

Matthew Borne
Ireland
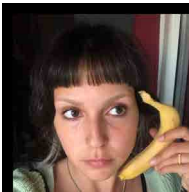
Milica Rajkovic
Serbia

**Wiktor
Ignatjew-Zielonka**
Poland
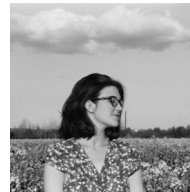
Mela Gregorczyk
Poland

Rory Staunton
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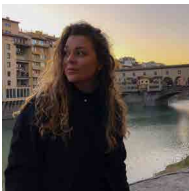
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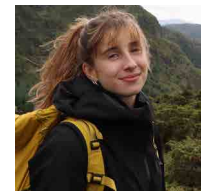
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Fran Cassar
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Jakob D'herde
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Louis Devane
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Kate Hunter Hanley
Ireland

participants
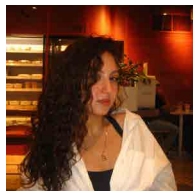
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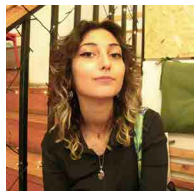
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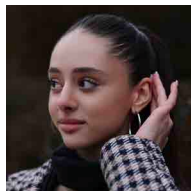
Mery Margaryan
Armenia

Tigran Yazeryan
Armenia

Tsovinar Khalatyan
Armenia

Teodora Zdero
Bosnia

Kristina Mihova
Bulgaria

Borislava Manolova
Bulgaria

Kalina Ortomarova
Bulgaria

Leon Pollak
Croatia
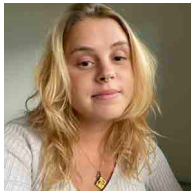
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Croatia

Aliis Vatku
Estonia

Katariina Vaher
Estonia

Marija Blinova
Estonia

Annie Bonnet
France

Jade Latreche
France

Elene Pichkhadze
Georgia

Elene Pichkhadze
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Anaelle Buderus
Germany

Elies Maria Klara
Germany

Flora Beck
Germany

Franziska Lichtenberg
Germany

Klara Georgi
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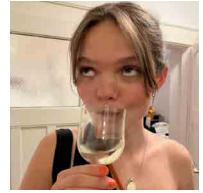
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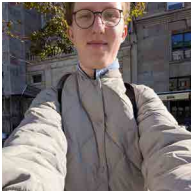
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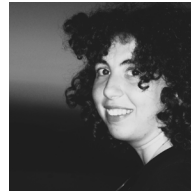
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Greece

Maria Pavlaki
Greece

Jacopo Risaliti
Italy

Alessandro Renzi
Italy

Eszter Nagyhegyesi
Hungary

Dārta Pole
Latvia

Elfa Elizabete Melbārzde
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Eliza Anna Zeibote
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Rems Skrebels
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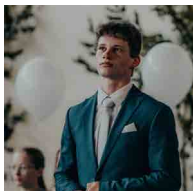
Kārlis Veitners
Latvia

Madara Berzina
Latvia

Katarina Tomic
Macedonia

participants

Martin Puleski
Macedonia

Maša Stojanović
Montenegro

Milica Janjić
Montenegro

Zorana Rabrenovic
Montenegro

Ana Popovici
Romania
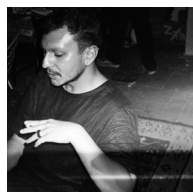
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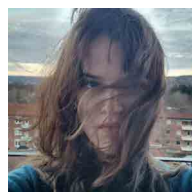
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Maša Veselinović
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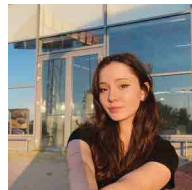
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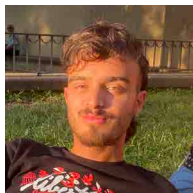
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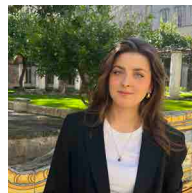
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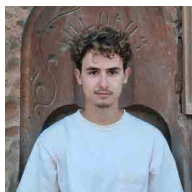
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Justyna Zawada
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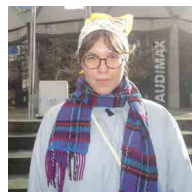
Alicja Zwierz
Poland

64

Wictoria Slowinska
Poland

Łukasz Dudek
Poland

Artem Frediuk
Ukraine

Nesterenko Andrii
Ukraine

Yeshaiahu-Paulina Marchenko
Ukraine

Nikita Shulha
Ukraine

Volodymyr Petryk
Ukraine

Lisa Dragaschnig
Austria

Liam Evans
United Kingdom

Thomas Tsiantar
United Kingdom

Yukta Chegu
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Tanya Izo
Belarus

Marketa Novotna
Czech Republic

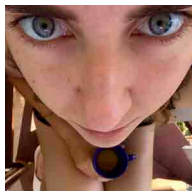**Adam O'Neill**
Northern Ireland

Emine Akbaytogan
Cyprus

helpers
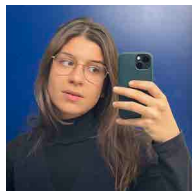
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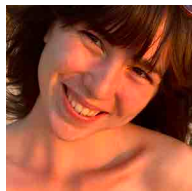
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Germany

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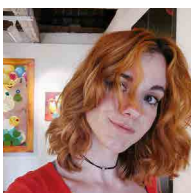France

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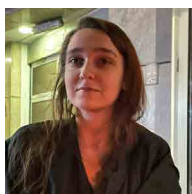Macedonia
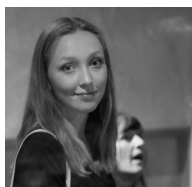
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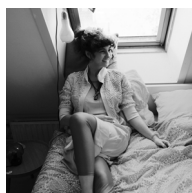
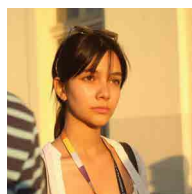**Diana Ferro**
Italy

Matylda Wolff
Poland

Nađa Ranitović
Serbia

Lea Pružljanin
Serbia

Ana Vučeta
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Mina Radovanovic
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Milica Mladenovic
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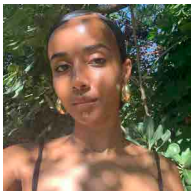
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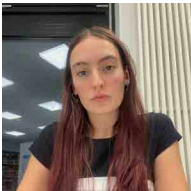# guests

Tara Shikho
Sweden

Nia Ivanova
Bulgaria

Antoni Banach
Poland

Rebecca Tesfa
Norway

Simonida Galović
Serbia

Asia Isabel
Italy

Emma Ariaudo
Italy

Mahdi Biagioli
Italy

Anna Shishkina
The Netherlands

SESAM IDENTITY 2.0

Small **E**uropean **S**tudents of **A**rchitecture **M**eeting

"With the theme Identity, we aim to deepen our understanding of how
architecture intersects with cultural, social, and historical narratives.
We seek to explore the impact spatial practices have on individual and
collective identity."

1-10 MARCH 2025
NICOSIA, CYPRUS