

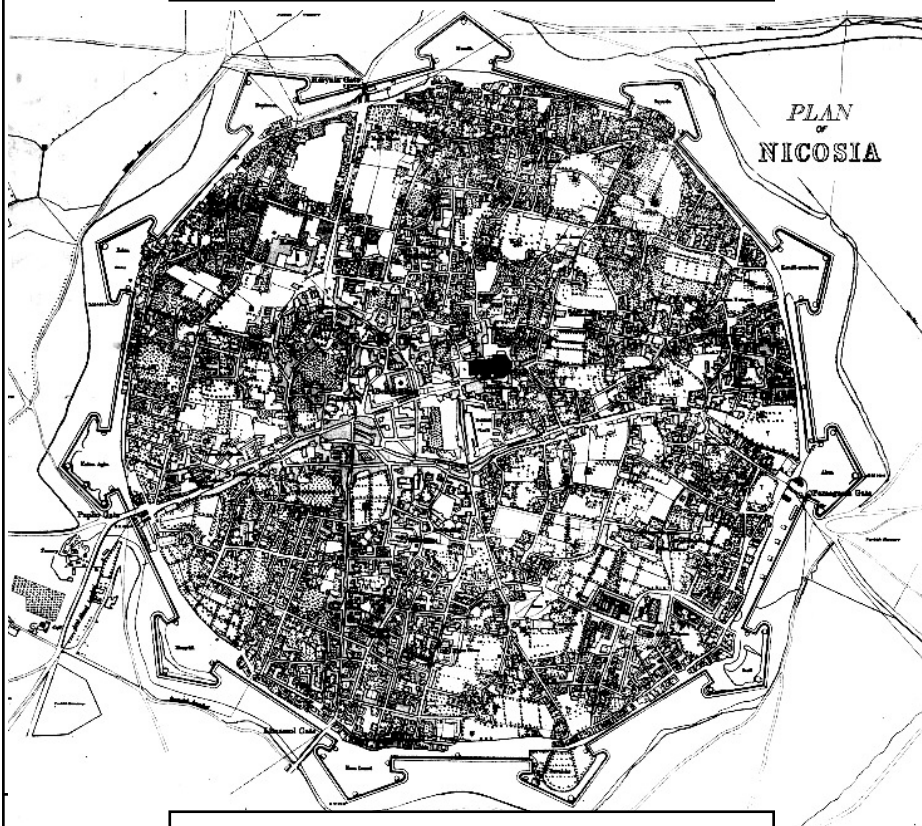
# PSUC 2018

AESOP Thematic Group for Public Spaces and Urban Cultures Series

**THE URBANIZATION of (IN) JUSTICE:**  
Public spaces in uncertain geographies

**16th - 18th of May**

Ledra Palace, Nicosia, Cyprus



## WALKSHOP



# PSUC 2018

The University of Cyprus, Department of Architecture organises the annual meeting of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)'s Thematic Group Public Spaces and Urban Cultures, which will take place in the United Nations Buffer Zone in Nicosia in the period between 16th and 18th May 2018.

The **main theme of the conference** delves on the observation that over the past few decades, cities around the world have become radically and rapidly changed in their sense of scale, scope and complexity. This is mainly due to the increasing mobility of people, goods and information as a result of technological developments, liberalization of economic systems, economic fluctuations, wars and climate change. These changes challenge the processes of production of built environment and create conflicts and contestations between different urban groups, who have contradicted claims on the decisions and processes influencing urban transformation.

The **aim of this conference** is to share international and interdisciplinary perspectives of public space as a facilitator of (in)just urban transformation processes from various angles based on practical and/or theoretical work. Particularly some of the conference topics are:

- Public space in relation to urban just and unjust conditions, today and through time;
- Public space and equity, public space and diversity, public space, identity, spatiality and power;
- Re-thinking public space through the connections between notions of justice, social relations, and spatial form;
- Responses to unjust urban patterns in form of emerging practices of self-organization and negotiations of difference in cities' public spaces;
- Role of actors in the production of public space;
- Everyday practices of establishing spatial justice and injustice;
- Creation of subjectivities in or with public space;
- Politics of public space

The meeting on the 18th includes a walkshop in the historic centre of Nicosia within the walls where we will have the chance to visit both sides of the buffer zone (also known as the Green Line) that divides the capital of Cyprus. The tour will focus on the city's major projects in the framework of the proposed Nicosia Master Plan. Participants will then have the opportunity to discuss with experts involved in the development of the city, during a round table session.

## Round table discussion

15:00-17:00, on Friday May 18, 2018 in the Ledra Palace Buffer Zone area, Chateau 1

The **main objective of the roundtable discussion** is to unfold, discuss, re-think and challenge prevailing discourses about "just" or "unjust" processes of urban transformation from the perspective of public space. It will focus on a critical and constructive debate on the research, policy and public agendas about this issue to contribute to the academic and public discussions on the role of public space to achieve "just" cities."

Experts involved in the Nicosia Master Plan and the urban development of the city will offer their unique professional perspective and experience with regards to the theme above. They will make reference to the past and present framework of their activities, so as to highlight the local Cypriot reality, as well as potential pitfalls, challenges and opportunities that may arise from their involvement in such projects as the Nicosia Master Plan.

Different views on public space can provide us with ways of developing planning and design strategies, policy measures, civil initiatives and social movements to oppose processes of unjust urban transformation . . . yet, in the context of a rapid-shifting economic, political and social reality, how might we critically rethink public space as a facilitator of urban justice.

## Moderators

Dr. Andreas Savvides, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus

Dr. Nadia Charalambous, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus

## Participants

Ms. Agni Petridou, Consulting Architect / Urban Planner and former NMP member

Mr. Ali Gyalp, Civil Engineer, Specialist in Urban Conservation and former NMP member

Mr. Glafkos Contantinides, Consulting Economist / Urban Planner

Ms. Markella Hadjida, Senior Planning Officer, Dpt. of Town Planning and Housing

Prof. Dr. Naciye Doratli, Specialist in Urban Conservation and former NMP member

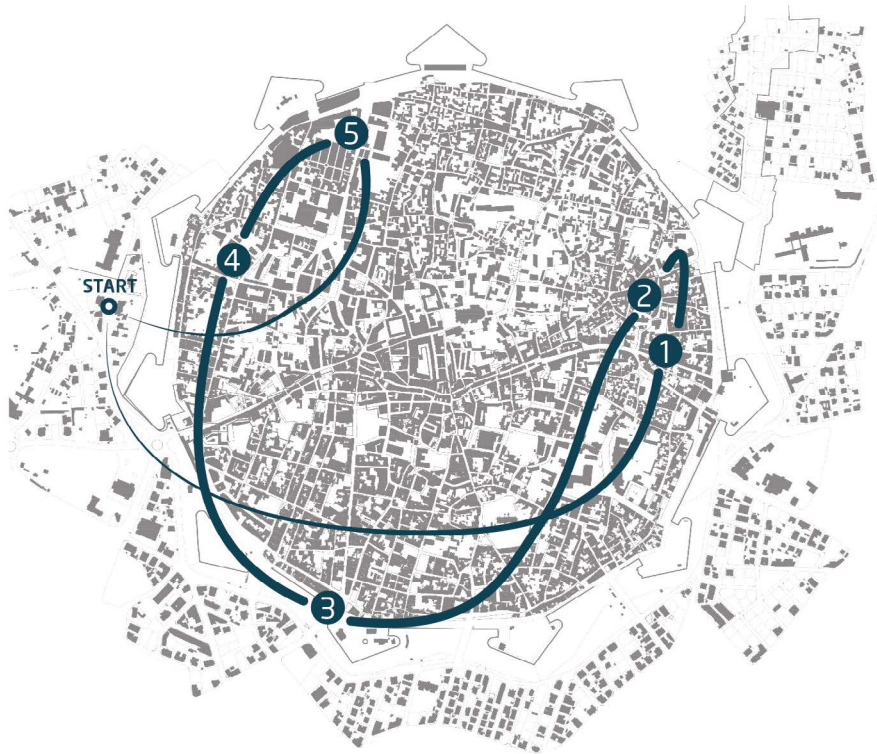
Dr. Pavlos Philippou, President of the Planning Board, Cyprus



# WALKSHOP ITINERARY



- leaving Chateau 2, buffer zone at 11:15 -14.00
- bring your passports



**Starting Point:**  
Chateau, buffer zone

- Sites to Visit:**
1. Chrysaliniotissa
  2. Ayios Kassianos
  3. Eleftheria's square
  4. Arabahmet
  5. Samanbahçe

**Walkshop Presenters:**  
Marko Kiessel  
Sebnem Hoskara  
Chrystala Psathiti  
Andreas Papallas

# WALKSHOP SITES

## 1. Chrysaliniotissa

The Chrysaliniotissa Revitalization Project is a social housing programme in an area long neglected due to its proximity to the buffer zone. An effort was made to attract young couples by building community facilities, such as a nursery, a students hostel and children's parks. Young couples were housed in existing traditional buildings that were preserved and re-used.

## 2. Ayios Kassianos

Ayios Kassianos is a Nicosia district within the city walls, divided today, included in the lower border of old Nicosia. The name of the district comes from the church of St. Kassianos, which today is in the buffer zone and was built in 1854.

## 3. Eleftherias Square

Eleftheria square is the main connection between the old and the new city which evolved through historical time. Initially called Metaxas square then renamed after a public vote in 1975 to Freedom square ("Eleftheria" Square in Greek). It forms the intersection of Ledra and Onasagorou streets with Stasinou, Omirou, Kostaki Pantelidi, Konstandinou Palaiologou and Evagorou avenues. Following an international competition, Zaha Hadid's office was awarded the first prize and the commission for the renovation of the existing square.

## 4. Arabahmet

The project of Arab Ahmet is a rehabilitation project in the northern side of Walled City of Nicosia. The ultimate goal of the conservation project is to instigate a process of self-sustained rehabilitation, effectively enabling the historic area to resume a viable role within the contemporary city. This project also aims to increase the population of Arab Ahmet area and to attract younger and economically active households into the area.

## 5. Samanbahçe

Samanbahce, is a unique traditional residential area at the edge of the Kyrenia Avenue in the Walled City of Nicosia. Is a unique place not only due to its distinctive physical, urban and architectural characteristics, but also as being the first mass-housing area on the Island developed in 1930's by the British. Although being located next to the most lively area of the Walled City, today, Samanbahce area is suffering from physical and social decay.

# NICOSIA MASTERPLAN

A significant and comprehensive action aimed at dealing with the planning challenges posed by a divided city was the Nicosia Master Plan, drawn up through the collaboration of the city's two communities and under the auspices and the financial backing of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The programme's main objective, as it was defined in 1979 following an agreement between representatives of the two communities, was to improve current and future living conditions for all residents of Nicosia.

The office of the Nicosia Master Plan began its work in 1981 with the establishment of an inter-disciplinary team of scientists from the two communities, supported where necessary by United Nations experts. The implementation of this programme involving a common functional reorganisation of the two parts of the city was executed in three phases:

The first phase, from 1981 to 1984, covered the Nicosia broader urban area and established a comprehensive town planning strategy for the city's future development. It also determined the city's future structure, setting as its guideline the need for a cohesive layout of the built environment.

The second phase (1985) focused on an in-depth study of the centre of Nicosia, that is, the commercial town centre and the walled city.

This area suffered from a lack of vitality, the absence of significant urban functions and in general a loss of identity. The overall aim was to develop and boost this area, transforming it into the capital's primary centre for the provision of services as well as a focal point for the social, cultural and commercial zone of Nicosia but also for the island in general.

The third phase, from 1986 till the present day, focuses on one of the most important aspects of town planning - revitalising and upgrading the city's historic centre, which suffered the worst consequences of the capital's division.

The Nicosia Master Plan identified the walled city of Nicosia as well as other traditional urban nuclei as the city's most significant structured sets, which through their configuration and architecture mirror the many layers of history. By virtue of its architectural and cultural value, the historic centre has been recognised and is treated as a cultural and financial asset that needs to be incorporated into modern-day social life.

It was decided that long-term rehabilitation can be carried out only if it is geared at social rehabilitation, a precondition for preserving the built and the natural environments. Therefore, proposals on what to do with the walled city of Nicosia aim to improve living conditions and the environment in general, make the best use of the existing architectural resources, attract young couples for permanent habitation, promote owner-occupied housing etc.

The core philosophy of the Nicosia Master Plan in implementing the revitalisation of Old Nicosia entails the engagement of the public sector in efforts to boost the area's viability but also its cultural activity.

Combined interventions at various sections within Old Nicosia have also created, and will create, interrelated land-use activities, forming the basis for permanent revitalisation. A particularly significant aspect of the programme's philosophy is the need to preserve and re-use existing traditional buildings that can house young couples for permanent habitation. This effort would involve uniform planning, taking into account social and financial needs and priorities.



# NICOSIA MASTERPLAN

The type of intervention selected for each homogeneous area in the historic centre was based on the areas' architectural character, their social merits and economic viability. Some indicative projects are included below:

## 1. Chrysaliniotissa Project

The Chrysaliniotissa Revitalization Project is a social housing programme in an area long neglected due to its proximity to the buffer zone. An effort was made to attract young couples by building community facilities, such as a nursery, a students hostel and children's parks. Young couples were housed in existing traditional buildings that were preserved and re-used.

## 2. Pedestrianization of the commercial area in the historic centre

Pedestrianization of the commercial streets of Ledra and Onasagorou and of the streets in between was deemed a priority project, aimed at upgrading the area's functionality and environment and allowing the area to compete with the new modern commercial centers outside the walled city.

## 3. Revitalisation of the Omerye Area

The area of the Omerye monuments fans out around the Augustinian church of St. Mary, which was used as a mosque during the Ottoman rule of Cyprus. The rehabilitation of the area incorporates restoring the historic urban fabric, conserving the Ottoman baths, conserving sections of the mosque and upgrading the surrounding space.

## 4. Surveys along the buffer zone

The project focuses on studying and surveying the facades of buildings along the buffer zone, assessing their architectural value and drafting proposals for actions to prevent their collapse. The Nicosia Master Plan project, titled 'Architectural Heritage of the Buffer Zone in the Walled City of Nicosia' received the Grand Prix award in the European Union's 2011 prize for cultural heritage - Europa Nostra.

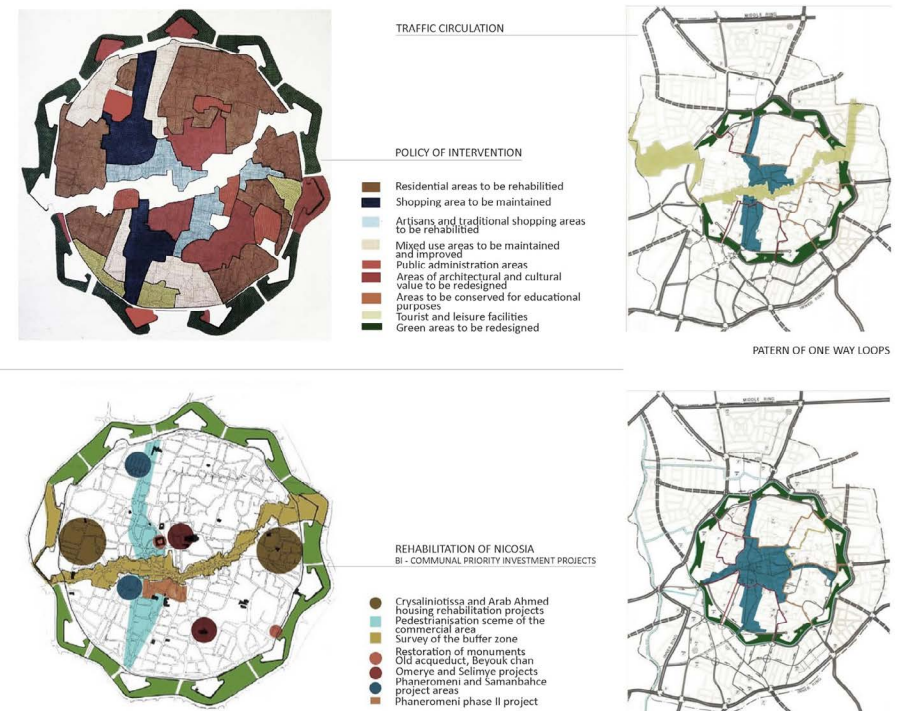
## 5. Faneromeni Area Revitalisation Project

The project concerns upgrading the environment adjacent to the buffer zone, to the left at the end of Ledra Street. It includes the preservation of building facades, upgrading of infrastructures and street-paving.

## 6. Nicosia Green Line rejuvenation programme

This government programme includes incentives for developing private properties within the Nicosia and Ayios Dometios municipalities that are in close proximity to the Green Line. It also funds public projects implemented in the same areas.

Various projects have been implemented as part of this programme, such as the Municipal Arts Centre, car parks on Ledra and Onasagorou streets in Old Nicosia, the Linear Park and the paving of Aya Varvara Street in Kaimakli, the pedestrian pavement and cycle path in Pallouriotissa, and the new municipality in the old city.





Contact:

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