

CYA 2nd Annual Student Conference



COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS

**Concepts of
Urban Design and
Public Space in Greece
Throughout the Ages**

Athens 2-3 May 2018

**Daphne & George Hatsopoulos Hall
CYA**

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The conference is designed to suit a broad-based and multi-disciplinary discussion on varying aspects of both urban planning and the utilization of public space in major urban centers in Greece from antiquity down to the modern age. Its primary aim is to provide fresh insight on the main human or material factors (including political, social, economic, religious and cultural ones) that determined the layout, change, development and evolution of public space within designated and specific civilian settlements. In addition, major emphasis will be placed on how these urban centers are experienced by their inhabitants, along with the usual tensions and challenges that manifest themselves during times of transition and change.



Vassilis Sgoutas (Athens, 1934) is a practicing architect. He established his own office in Athens in 1961 and has done significant projects in Greece, the Middle East and North Africa. He has won numerous awards in competitions, including two of the Ministry of Public Works best building awards.

Among his projects are office buildings for Ciba-Geigy and Novartis, industrial plants for Pfizer and Boehringer Ingelheim, the Athens Management and Conference Centre, the Alexander Fleming Biological Research Centre, the University of Crete Faculty of Medicine, the Oil Industry Hospital in Tripoli, Libya, the Michael Cacoyannis Cultural Centre, the EEC Presidency re-modeling of Zappeion Palace, the Frankfurt 2001 Book Fair Greek Pavilion, the Carthage auditorium and site development project in Tunisia and, in collaboration with others, the Siemens offices, the Athens Concert Hall and the Thessaloniki Concert Hall.

He was President of the International Union of Architects between 1999 and 2002, and before that its Secretary General. Vassilis Sgoutas has also represented the Technical Chamber of Greece on several missions abroad.

He has lectured and written on matters related to aesthetics, the environment, the disabled, and poverty. In 2007, the UIA launched the triennial “Vassilis Sgoutas Prize” to reward architects who have contributed to the betterment of living conditions in areas below the poverty level. In 2017, his book “A Journey with the Architects of the World” was launched during the World Congress of Architects in Seoul.

He is Honorary Fellow/Member of the Australia, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Russia, South Africa and USA architects institutes. He holds the Insignia of the Superior Council of the Architects of Spain, is a foreign member of the State Russian Academy of Architecture, and was awarded the medal of the Magnesia Chapter of the Technical Chamber of Greece for his “lifelong service to architecture”.

Conference Committee

John Karavas, CYA Ancient History & Archaeology Professor (Chair)

Maria Vidali, CYA Contemporary Urbanism Professor

Theoni Scourta, CYA Vice President for Academic Affairs

VASSILIS SGOUTAS

Architect, former President of the International Union of Architects (UIA)
Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Keynote Speech: The Urban Realities of Athens

The public spaces of Athens grow, develop and are transformed, invariably without focused overall plans. Even when well-conceived planning schemes are implemented, they often fail.

Athens deserves better, if only for its history and for the legacy it has been bequeathed. Nowhere is the continuity of Athens, from antiquity until today, more evident than in its flora. The famed Attica light could have been another element of continuity but present-day environmental factors and climate change have deprived us of a unique gift.

The perennial Greek colors – white, terracotta and indigo – are still evident in the older parts of the city. Yet Athens, ochre for the most part, seems to have forgotten color. Fortunately, color is coming back in contemporary Greek architecture though it is less evident in exteriors and much more so in interiors, where bold uses of color are increasingly to be seen. Mural art might also help bring vibrancy back to the city, particularly to its less affluent parts.

The Michael Cacoyannis Cultural Centre, designed by the Sgoutas Architects firm (Vassilis & Dimitris Sgoutas) stands out for its use of color and for its main auditorium, which echoes the design principles of ancient theaters.

But what do lovers of the relics of antiquity in fact love? Is it the ruins? How would they feel if they were confronted with the real thing?

The few empty spaces of the city need to be safeguarded at all costs. The demolition of oppressive or badly sited buildings could be conducive to a cityscape more in keeping with how we dream our city to be. Could this determine a role for future benefactors?

Architects must certainly be given a principal role; the sidelining of architects from the development of Athens has been a major negative parameter. It is time that investors and their money cease to be the cure-all pill.

In the last 200 years, Athens has grown from 20,000 inhabitants to a metropolis of nearly four million. Its ethnic mix is rapidly changing. So is its architecture. In more ways than one, the city has experienced and is experiencing severe strains. The unique heritage with which Athens has been blessed is in stark contrast to the often chaotic daily realities. In everything we do, build or aspire to, western values are intermingled with character traits long embedded in our DNA.

So which way forward for the city we love?

Conference Program

PAPERS

ELSA MANN

CYA - University of Southern California

Athens: A Modern City Within an Ancient World

Allison Davis, CYA - College of Charleston
The Pylian Model: Regional Palatial Administration in the Late Bronze Age **02**

Carolyn Dorey, CYA - College of Charleston
A Place for Asklepeios: The Expansion of Healing Sanctuaries in Ancient Greece **03**

Rebecca Bowles, CYA - Emory University
Egypt in Greece: Isiac Sanctuaries and the Greek Landscape **04**

Jack Chase, CYA - Kenyon College
Xenophon's Waste-Free Future for Domestic Athens **05**

Georgios Drakontaeidis, National Technical University of Athens
Re-use of Industrial Buildings and Public Space: The Example of the Elefsina Old Olive Mill **07**

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Sonia Dupouy, University of Bordeaux; Katerina Ninou, Melina Tsagareli, National Technical University of Athens
The Imbalance Between Cars and Pedestrians in Athens: The Case Study of the Sepolia District **09**

Sophia Cunningham, CYA - Mount Holyoke College
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Elsa Mann, CYA - University of Southern California
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Vassilis Sgoutas, Architect, former President of the International Union of Architects (UIA), Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA)
Keynote Speech: The Urban Realities of Athens **12**

Upon arriving in Athens, I was immediately struck by the contrast between the characteristics of the ancient world and modern city. Greece - and Athens in particular - has been able to retain a sense of antiquity, and I have been amazed by how many ancient buildings are scattered throughout town. However, as I walk the streets, I also start to wonder why so much is dilapidated. Take, for instance, the sidewalks of Athens. Potholes and large cracks can be found every few feet, and I often see cars or motorcycles parked on the sidewalk, blocking the path. How is it that this city can maintain buildings that are thousands of years old, yet the sidewalks we use every day are in disrepair? This leads me to my central question: Greece may strike a balance between ancient and modern, but where does one draw the line between preservation and renovation?

Elsa Mann is a sophomore at the University of Southern California, majoring in real estate development and minoring in business law. Her passion for real estate began with a strong interest in architecture, which also played a major role in her decision to study abroad in Greece. Born and raised in Los Angeles, she admits that she has really been enjoying her time in Athens and exploring both the ancient and modern parts of the city.

SOPHIA CUNNINGHAM

CYA - Mount Holyoke College

Queer Critiques of Athens' "Gay Village"

In this paper, I discuss queer Athenian public spaces, with an emphasis on the Gazi neighborhood of Athens. Many tourists and Greeks alike are familiar with Gazi, the “gay village” of Athens, and its various popular gay bars. As I demonstrate, Gazi as a gay district is a very recent construction, originating only in the early 21st century. Its revitalization at that time was a project of the city of Athens that was not meant to feature same-sex sexuality but which nevertheless developed to do so. Today it is a largely commercial district, which I will critique as a site of neoliberal capitalism and homonormativity, using both queer Greek criticisms and international concepts such as global homocapitalism (Rahul Rao, 2015). By comparing Gazi’s urban development, rooted in the state and the market, to the development of other gay villages around the world, I attempt to explain why Gazi has been relatively unsuccessful as a gay district in terms of its mixed perception by queer Athenians and its dubious position as a location of queer sociality. From talking with Greek queer youth, I have observed that many in the queer community avoid Gazi in favor of less commercial spaces. This other side of gay Athens includes more organic and community-based spaces such as social cooperatives and the queer festivals that emerge during the summer. By drawing on existing material and conducting my own ethnographic research, I further explore these divergent forms of queer space and sociality in Athens.

Sophia Cunningham is a queer feminist from Orange County, California. She is pursuing a B.A. in politics and sociology at Mount Holyoke College in Western Massachusetts.

WEDNESDAY 02 MAY

16:30 Welcome Remarks

Alexis Phylactopoulos, CYA President

16:45 Opening Address

John Karavas, CYA Ancient History & Archaeology Professor

Paper Presentations

Chair: John Karavas

17:00 Allison Davis, CYA - College of Charleston

The Pylion Model: Regional Palatial Administration in the Late Bronze Age

17:30 Carolyn Dorey, CYA - College of Charleston

A Place for Asklepeios: The Expansion of Healing Sanctuaries in Ancient Greece

Break

18:15 Rebecca Bowles, CYA - Emory University

Egypt in Greece: Isiac Sanctuaries and the Greek Landscape

18:45 Jack Chase, CYA - Kenyon College

Xenophon’s Waste-Free Future for Domestic Athens

19:30

Keynote Speech

Vassilis Sgoutas, Architect, former President of the International Union of Architects (UIA). Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA)

CYA Rooftop Reception

ALLISON DAVIS

CYA - College of Charleston

The Pylian Model: Regional Palatial Administration in the Late Bronze Age

An archetype of Mycenaean palatial settlements, as seen at the Palace of Nestor, can be applied to other regions of administration across mainland Greece. Doing so, creates a comprehensive understanding of state functions in the Late Bronze Age. At sites such as the Palace of Nestor and Iklaina, Linear B demonstrates that two regional entities were unable to remain autonomous. After understanding the state structure in Messenia and applying its archetype in the Argolid, the likelihood that Mycenae and Tiryns maintained an allied relationship is slim when compared with the probability of a symbiotic relationship, as seen in Messenia. Thus Mycenae and Tiryns may have coexisted in one aggregate political kingdom, as opposed to forming alliances between autonomous entities. With the application of a model of the palatial state originating in Pylos, Mycenaean state structure is thus further understood across the Greek mainland.

Allison Davis is a full year student at College Year in Athens and a junior at the College of Charleston. She majors in classics and archaeology, with a special interest in prehistoric Mediterranean archaeology. Her field experiences include cataloguing Roman glass at the College of Charleston, excavating with the Iklaina Archaeological Project, interning in the Athenian Agora's archives, and participating in CYA's field school at Voula. She will participate in the 2018 summer excavations at the Palace of Nestor. Upon the completion of her undergraduate studies, Allison plans to pursue a graduate degree in prehistoric archaeology.

SONIA DUPOUY, KATERINA NINO, MELINA TSAGARELI

University of Bordeaux, National Technical University of Athens

The Imbalance Between Cars and Pedestrians in Athens: The Case Study of the Sepolia District

Athens is a city now suffering from the dominance of the car. Several phases of reconstruction have created a chaotic and densely built-up urban network, leaving inadequate public space for the citizens. Pedestrians are limited to narrow sidewalks, which are usually occupied by illegally parked cars. As a case study, we investigated the district of Sepolia, a residential area next to the center of Athens which has been converted into an enormous parking lot, thus eroding the neighborhood structure. Our proposals include the reorganization of the parked cars that overwhelm the area, and the redesign of Sepolia's two main public squares, as well as their connection. Our purpose is to free the open public space from the dominance of the car in order to balance the relationship between cars and pedestrians. Our ultimate goal is to extend this network throughout Sepolia and afterwards throughout central Athens, thereby creating new perspectives on a public space dedicated to citizens and not their cars.

Sonia Dupouy is currently a student in the fourth year of a degree in architecture, and she studies at the School of Architecture in Bordeaux, France. Since September, she has been studying at the School of Architecture of the National Technical University of Athens through the Erasmus program. During her studies, she has also had the opportunity to do some internships with building enterprises in France, as well as one at an architecture agency.

Katerina Ninou is currently a fourth-year student of architecture at the National Technical University of Athens. She grew up in Athens and lives in the suburbs although she really got to know the city through her studies at the university, particularly in the area of urban planning. She has done internships in both the architecture office 'Aspect' and the multinational enterprise 'Imerys'. She speaks Greek, English and Spanish and likes to combine her interests in architecture with traveling and meeting people from different countries.

Melina Tsagkareli is in her fourth year of undergraduate studies in architecture at the National Technical University of Athens. She grew up in Tripoli, Greece, where she finished high school. Recently, she participated in an educational trip to Germany, with a focus on urban design and the development of the city of Hamburg. She speaks Greek and English fluently and is currently learning French. Except for architecture, she is passionate about traveling and meeting people from foreign countries.

CHRISTINA MILOPOULOU, GEORGIA MALAPANI

National Technical University of Athens

Eleusis-Let's Take a Walk

Public place forms a space with social, political, historical, environmental and communicational qualities. The public space of the city of Eleusis, or Elefsina, is an example of a public place that embodies each of the aforementioned qualities. Our perspective, which is that of memory, has been shaped by studying Eleusis through time and examining the imprints on the city of each historical era. Through memory, historical events emerge in the public space of the contemporary city. The aim of our project is to connect different parts of the city of Eleusis in order to understand the identity of public space. Our first stop in time is the archaeological space, then industry, as it appears in Eleusis with the arrival of refugees, helping to shape the area's industrial character. Nowadays, Eleusis can be defined as a patchwork of elements, including archaeological ruins, industry, and refugees, and within this patchwork every aspect of the city's historical character can be noted, with meanings like place, memory, and path constantly repeated. Through our proposed interventions in the public space of Eleusis, we explore the existing situation and create a united public space, accessible to everyone. So, let's take a walk.

Christina Milopoulou is an architect to be. She is addicted to architecture and has taken part in a number of competitions. She enjoys walking, preferring coastlines and the Greek islands, and other interests include playing musical instruments and dancing. She is very much looking forward to the continuation of her studies and career in architecture.

Georgia Malapani is studying in the Department of Architecture and the Faculty of Fine Arts and Design at the National Technical University of Athens. She is both an architecture and travel enthusiast, with a special interest in public space and its presence in different cultures. She loves to explore and gain new experiences that are inspiring and motivating.

CAROLYN DOREY

CYA - College of Charleston

A Place for Asklepeios: The Expansion of Healing Sanctuaries in Ancient Greece

In this paper, I aim to examine the mobility of the cult of Asklepeios and the importance of physical “place” in healing sanctuaries within the ancient Greek world. Panhellenism acted as a catalyst for the rapid increase of Asklepieia and promoted the exportation of the cult from major pilgrimage sites to smaller, more widely accessible locations. Furthermore, the paper discusses the development of the cult of Asklepeios alongside “rational” Hippocratic medicine of the 5th and 4th centuries BCE. Cult sanctuaries to Asklepeios provided a place for the exchange of ideas, treatments, and philosophies that altered popular medicine. Instead of acting as an enemy to “rational” thought, healing sanctuaries became inseparable from contemporary medicine as they were necessary centers of medical, religious, and political influence. The cult's rapid expansion and longevity were therefore due to its ability to adapt topographically, accept new schools of thought, and converge them into one place—the Asklepeion.

Carolyn Dorey is currently a junior at the College of Charleston and a full year student at College Year in Athens, pursuing majors in classics, history, and archaeology. Her current research interests include ancient medicine and mortuary practices in antiquity. At the College of Charleston, Carolyn works as a research assistant in the Roman Glass Lab. During her time in Athens, she has held two internships, working in the archives of the ancient Athenian Agora excavations while also working as an assistant in the Wiener Laboratory at the American School of Classical Studies. In January, she additionally participated in the Voula excavations through CYA. This summer Carolyn will work on the Agora excavations for the 2018 season. She plans to pursue graduate studies in classical archaeology.

REBECCA BOWLES

CYA - Emory University

Egypt in Greece: Isiac Sanctuaries and the Greek Landscape

The worship of the Hellenized Isis through the prominent cult of the same name is a matter of great importance. The worship of Isis and her fellow Egyptian gods was a standout in terms of longevity, being active from the 3rd century BCE all the way through late antiquity. In addition, the cult, which spread throughout the Mediterranean and far beyond with unstoppable speed, was popular with people from all walks of life and is therefore incredibly well documented. My paper primarily focuses on the cult at Delos, but it also touches on the sanctuaries found at Ephesus and Gortyn and their impact on local life. As Isiac sanctuaries, these sites were an important part of life in the area since the cult was less exclusive than contemporary mystery cults. In addition, the paper examines the changes in the cult during its spread, using epigraphical and archaeological evidence to determine how the new Isiac landscape interacted with the preexisting one and thus promoting a proper understanding of these cult sites within the wider context of the time. As well as considering the archaeological evidence pertaining to the sanctuaries, the paper explores the landscape of the sanctuaries and their place within their respective sites, while a brief examination of Apuleius' well known "Isis Book" adds further depth to the study of necessary facilities in Isiac sanctuaries, thus allowing even greater insight into the ways in which the cult fulfilled the needs of its people.

Rebecca Bowles is a native Texan and an undergraduate at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. As a classics and Mediterranean archaeology major, she aspires to work as an underwater archaeologist and to study Roman maritime activity.

GEORGIOS DRAKONTAEIDIS

National Technical University of Athens

Re-use of Industrial Buildings and Public Space: The Example of the Elefsina Old Olive Mill

In this paper, I attempt to study the possibility of creating public space from the re-use of old industrial buildings within the urban fabric of modern cities. The example that I have chosen is the old olive mill of Elefsina, a coastal city of Attica that has been inhabited since ancient times and is due to become the cultural capital of Europe in 2021. In antiquity, Elefsina was one of the five holy cities of Ancient Greece and was connected to Athens through "the holy road". Then, in the 19th and 20th centuries, it became a powerful industrial center of Greece, but the subsequent abandonment of industrial uses created a strong heterotopia, located between antiquities and its industrial heritage and strongly reflected in the public space of the city. I first explore the possibilities of converting industrial shells into public spaces, noting their comparative advantages over other empty spaces in cities. Then, I describe the evolution of public space in the city of Elefsina in relation to the changes that occurred in the area due to residential and industrial development, with a focus on the last two centuries, when the biggest and most important changes occurred. Next, through maps created during field research, I analyze the area of the old olive mill in relation to the rest of the urban fabric, focusing on the possibility of producing public space that follows already formed spaces through the transformation of industrial buildings, and documenting how this transformation can produce a public space with cultural uses. Indeed, the old olive mill now functions as a social capacitor since numerous events and artistic activities have taken place there every summer for the last 43 years as part of the Aeschylia Festival. Finally, I present important conclusions about the production of public space from the reuse of old industrial buildings.

Georgios Drakontaeidis was born and raised on the island of Kefalonia. Influenced by the Ionian spirit, George loved both science and the arts from a young age. During his school years, he distinguished himself in both astronomy and mathematics competitions, and in 2013, he entered the School of Architecture of the National Technical University of Athens (N.T.U.A.). During his studies, he has received various awards and has participated in many research projects. He reads philosophy and the history of Greek culture since he considers them to be a source of inspiration and reference for design. He also occupies himself with 3D-printing and believes that technology can evolve and change both architecture and society.

JACK CHASE

CYA - Kenyon College

Xenophon's Waste-Free Future for Domestic Athens

In this paper, I argue that modern Athenians, nay all city dwellers, can adjust their “homely norms” to reduce the crippling wastes produced by society. According to Xenophon’s Οικονομικός, a “green” home can educate the community, bring health to the body, and clear the mind, all of which I have confirmed through case studies of urban farming in Athens. When the diversities and inequalities of a community come to light through the shared cultivation of the earth, the community learns about itself and comes closer together. Along with luxury and productivity, physical health naturally arrives through agriculture because it creates a distraction from daily toils and a connection to nature itself. Finally, the green cultivation of the home lends itself to a certain multi-faceted diligence because one cannot help but be patient, honest, and aware when working with the organized chaos of nature. So says Xenophon, and I think that contemporary Athenians could readily remove life’s clutter with the help of his thoughts.

Jack Chase studies classical languages with a concentration on comparative world literatures at Kenyon College. The class that has inspired his conference presentation, ‘Urban Sustainability: Case Studies in Athens’, is the first course of this type he has taken, but he always works at learning modern lessons from ancient intellect.

THURSDAY 03 MAY

11:00 Opening Remarks

Athanasios Pagonis, Associate Professor in Urban Design & Planning, School of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens

11:15

Paper Presentations

Chairs: Maria Vidali | John Karavas

11:30

Georgios Drakontaeidis, National Technical University of Athens
Re-use of Industrial Buildings and Public Space:
The Example of the Elefsina Old Olive Mill

12:00

Christina Milopoulou, Georgia Malapani, National Technical University of Athens
Eleusis-Let's Take a Walk

Break

12:45

Sonia Dupouy, University of Bordeaux; **Katerina Ninou, Melina Tsagareli**, National Technical University of Athens
The Imbalance Between Cars and Pedestrians in Athens:
The Case Study of the Sepolia District

13:15

Sophia Cunningham, CYA - Mount Holyoke College
Queer Critiques of Athens' "Gay Village"

13:45

Elsa Mann, CYA - University of Southern California
Athens: A Modern City Within an Ancient World

14:15

Closing Remarks

Theoni Scourta, CYA Vice President for Academic Affairs