Towards a New Expertise

Conference and workshop
Urban Design
Urbanism
Urban Policy

Friday, May 24, 2013
Home for Cooperation, Nicosia Buffer Zone

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Local organisation
Archis Interventions_Cy
Overview

Lectures

Kai Voeckler, Archis Interventions/HfG Offenbach University of Art and Design
Petar Bojanic, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade
Vladan Djokic, Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade
Stephan Pinkau, Faculty of Architecture, University Anhalt, Dessau
Besnik Aliaj, Vice-Chancellor, POLIS University, Tirana

Statements

Sebnem Hoskara, Faculty of Architecture, Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus
Socrates Stratis, Faculty of Architecture, University of Cyprus
Resmiye Alpar Atun, Faculty of Architecture, Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus
Charis Psaltis, Department of Psychology, University of Cyprus
Stefan Ghenciulescu, Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest

Conclusion

Participants
Credits
Architecture and urban development have become spheres of work within an increasingly internationalized political and economic framework. The spatial design disciplines are charged with the task of developing new forms of planning able to offer the prospect of a ‘better life’ for this new spatial and power structure. This demands that planning be repositioned.

Numerous recent global conferences – for example, the ‘World Environmental Conference’ in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, HABITAT II in Istanbul in 1996 and URBAN 21 in Berlin in 1999 – rehabilitated planning as a valid means of influencing and managing social processes. In the 1980s, efforts to minimize state influence and other widespread programs implemented by global actors such as the World Bank and IMF were underpinned by neo-liberalism, an ideology that proved crisis prone and thus ultimately prompted moves to reconfigure state structures and develop new forms of planning. The model that emerged was ‘good governance’, a best practice guideline for decision-making processes, the exact nature of which is determined always by its context. Good governance is directly addressed to urban agglomerations as the focal point of social transformation, where it highlights a development that has accelerated over the past two decades, namely the proliferation of transnational structures as an outcome of the massive increase in cross-border exchange. Such structures express a new kind of relationship of the local to the global.

At the same time, a tight network of international institutions and transnational NGOs has been constructed, over and above the national states, a network that is now predominantly responsible for formulating policy, even though national states still implement the policy. Although the concept of the national state obviously touches on its borders, it still needs the efficient state in order to transact politics because social cohesion is no longer limited to the area inside national frontiers. It is precisely at the local level that a central contradiction of this new space regime manifests itself: while the importance of urban politics is increasing, its latitude is essentially dominated by global mechanisms upon which it has little influence.

The future of the spatial disciplines architecture and urban development depends on their ability to see themselves as a part of this overall political system, that is to say, as a part of systems of ‘governance’; as well as on their readiness to adopt a new type of planning strategy, one that is flexible enough to meet the demands of various social contexts, and simultaneously, to open up new contexts for different social actors.

Therefore the question arises, as to whether we need to tread new paths in our education system. How can we combine the spheres of architecture and planning with the political and social sciences? We are addressing this question specifically to colleagues from universities in the region, who deal, as we do, with the problems of urban...
transformation and post-conflict development. The aim of the conference is to establish a network, and in the longer term, a regional PhD program supported by different universities. The invited guests are asked to present their existing programs and projects and to pool their ideas with regard to a future PhD program on Urbanism and Urban Policy. Basically, we shall use the conference to discuss obstacles and possibilities.

Example: The Bauhaus Kolleg – a postgraduate program at the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation

Let me show, by way of example, an education programme that deals with urban development and urban policy and takes an interdisciplinary approach. For several years (2000-2001; 2003-2006) I have been advisor at the Bauhaus Kolleg, the postgraduate program of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation. Together with my colleagues Regina Bittner, a cultural scientist, and Wilfried Hackenbroich, an architect, we developed the curriculum of this one-year program. As you can see on the schemes, we identified a relevant theme dealing with problems and prospects of global urbanism, such as «Transit Spaces» (2003-2004), dealing with the post-socialist transformation of cities and societies or «UN Urbanism» (2005-2006), dealing with post-conflict development after war. Participants from different disciplines (dealing with spatial analysis or spatial design) then worked together in analysing and developing projects in relation to the selected theme. As a first step, the participants worked out an analysis by doing global research on theoretical reflections, reports and documentations which might be relevant to understanding the theme; by doing a field trip to selected sites to investigate the situation by doing mappings, documentations, interviews etc.; and by discussing the theoretical background. After this, an analysis was worked out, whereby the problems of this investigated urban development and the driving forces behind it were identified. Out of this, the participants worked out different formats for a project, individually or in groups – this might be an artistic intervention or a critical study, a planning strategy, an institutional strategy (e. g. forming a local CSO) or a communication strategy (e. g.
making a media campaign), depending on the professional background of the participant and the problem to be solved. Very often, different approaches could be combined to form a project, which was ultimately to be implemented.

The Bauhaus Kolleg approach shows how people with different backgrounds can work in an efficient, interdisciplinary way on topics of urban development and urban policy. (Very often, participants identified in the program their later PhD-thesis). This might give indications of how the PhD program we are discussing here could be structured.
As you can see in your programs, there is cooperation underway between Archis Intervention and the recently founded Rijeka-based Centre for Advanced Studies. We plan on architecture and urbanism being an integral part of the program at CAS. Since I have taught philosophy of architecture (or architectural philosophy) at the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade for seven years now, the engagement that justifies my participation above all is the question of the relation between architecture and philosophy. So what does it mean to be ‘in cooperation’? In what way do architecture or urban studies cooperate with philosophy? How can a philosopher and architect work together, and what on? Are there any normative protocols in the exchange of knowledge and experience between the architect and philosopher, such that they do not endanger the autonomy of the architect?

Allow me to first insist on the importance of autonomy of architecture, and second, on the task of the philosopher or theorist of the city (sociologist or political scientist) to awaken or uncover the philosopher or theorist in the architect herself. I suppose that a potential task for you here today, would be analogous: to defend the autonomy of the philosopher or theorist in the architect and planner. Constructed thus, I think this is a stable argument, because it would be easy to show that the first philosophers were architects and vice versa.

My contribution here is the result of collaborative work and is a joint construction (Vladan Đokić is an architect and the dean of the Faculty of Architecture, while Petar Bojanic is a philosopher and the director of the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory). My intention is to explain the utterly uncertain and always debatable connection between architecture and philosophy. Namely, this is an elucidation of the reconstruction of the connection between philosophy or theory on the one hand, and architecture on the other, by making reference and explaining the syntagma ("The Architectural Philosophy"), thereby introducing a few premises that would regulate the status and form of the copula “and” between these respective fields. The first premise could regard the various kinds of inspiration that philosophy or theory has produced in the field of architecture, or even the results of various encounters and dialogues between philosophers and architects. Indeed, today the philosopher is awakened in the architect. The architect is a thinker and is capable of thematizing her own enterprise. She no longer needs the philosopher.

On the other hand, it seems to me, and this is my second premise, that it is indeed possible to explain the uncertainty of the encounter between an architect and philosopher through the example of collaboration or exchange between an architect and philosopher. By this we mean between two big figures who could be the emblem and paradigm of any future relation or connection between philosophy and architecture (since we are certainly not dealing today with the importance of the “architectonic element” for philosophy): Peter Eisenman and Jacques Derrida. I think, quite to the contrary, that the conference Vladan and I organized in Belgrade last year ("Architecture and Philosophy"), as well as a conference we are organizing in Belgrade in November 2013 entitled "Issues. Discussions with Peter Eisenman," can indeed show how philosophy has been transplanted into architecture, or even the various transformations of philosophy in architecture.
Vladan Djokic  
Faculty of Architecture  
University of Belgrade  

Doctoral Academic Studies of Architecture  
University of Belgrade  

At the beginning of the presentation, there is an introduction to the University of Belgrade. There is basic information on the history of the University of Belgrade, and the number of its students and employees. The University of Belgrade numbers among the top 500 universities in the world, according to the Shanghai ranking within The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU).

University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture  

After the introduction to the University of Belgrade, attention is given to the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture. Program is held according to Bologna process on advanced education of architects. Faculty of Architecture is listed on the list of the 100 best schools of architecture, art and design in Europe in the last issue of the international journal Domus. Mission and strategic direction are highlighted as the main principles of the Faculty of Architecture, which is the leading academic institution in Serbia and the region. The main information about the Faculty is also presented: structure of studies, final diploma title, number of student places, size of staff, tuition and requirements.

Doctoral Academic Studies  

Further on, Doctoral academic studies are presented: study program objectives and graduates’ competencies are detailed. There is also basic information: duration of studies, number of student places, when was the first generation of PhD students, number of defended PhD theses, what are topics of PhD theses. Study program is organized as an integral course of studies by research (scientific character) and studies by design (artistic character). Studies organized by research have two general research fields – architecture and urbanism; and studies organized by design have one general research field – architecture and urbanism. Study program goals and study program outcomes are described in detail. It is also explained that teaching in doctoral academic studies is organized in two main forms – group classes (lectures) and individual classes (mentoring). Organization of teaching is specified for every year of doctoral studies (first, second and third year of studies). Very important is to mention the verification of knowledge, which is assured by the organization of classes and examinations. Duration of studies and character of PhD theses are also presented.

PhD Curriculum  

There are tables where the organization of PhD classes and subjects can be seen. That is PhD curriculum in the first, second and third year of doctoral academic studies.

Architecture and other Disciplines  

Architecture can be related to many other disciplines. It is important to see how architecture can develop in the other scientific fields. At the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture, Doctoral academic studies are related to art and philosophy.
Lectures

Architecture and Art

The link between architecture and art can be seen on Doctoral academic studies – PhD by design. This is recognizable in the basic information on the Doctoral academic studies – PhD by design: and in the name of the Artistic PhD (PhD Art Project) and final diploma title (Doctor of Arts in Architecture). There is also information about principles of PhD by design and models of PhD art project.

Architecture and Philosophy

Philosophy can be seen in architectural magazines and books published by University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture: Serbian Architectural Journal (SAJ), international scientific journal in the field of architecture and urbanism;

Interviews: Architecture of Deconstruction – The Specter of Jacques Derrida, the book of interviews is the outcome of the international scientific conference ‘Architecture of Deconstruction – The Specter of Jacques Derrida’ organized by the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture and the Center for Ethics, Law and Applied Philosophy (CE LAP) in Belgrade, October 2012;

Theory of Architecture and Urbanism, (Djokic, V, Bojanic, P, editors. University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Belgrade, 2010);

Think the City, (Djokic, V, Bojanic, P, editors. University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Belgrade, 2011);

Dialogues with Architects, (Djokic, V, Bojanic, P, editors. University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Belgrade, 2011);

Gestaltung [artistic formation and design] and its relation to education and research shall be the subject of the proposed M.Sc. / PhD Design Research. Gestaltung is conceived in this context as a specific holistic activity that is oriented to the needs of society and which shall be studied and analysed against the background of the historic development of conceptualisation disciplines and their present-day professional identity. The key focus is the issue of targeted forms of design research that are capable of complementing and extending known scientific approaches. The modern concept of Gestaltung that was decisively shaped also by the Bauhaus has a bridging function between increasingly drifting apart spheres of sciences and the arts, the economy, technology and society.

The Bauhaus has been searching for a common design denominator between individual arts in order to develop a formal canon that is adequate for technical civilisation. Nowadays, this strategy cannot be deemed self-evident. Unitisation does not appear to be a suitable answer in view of the globalised world with its great variety of ways of life. The relationship of multifariousness and standard, diversification and unitisation requires a re-think. It is precisely at such interfaces that designers are operating today.

Addressees of the proposed M.Sc. / PhD Design Research program are young, qualified architects and designers who understand their work as a reflected means of intervention and as a creative process of research.
The M.Sc. / PhD Design Research will be located at a site which, in the 1920s, played an international pioneering role in developing modern architecture and design. The program conceives of itself as a contribution to updating this legacy.

The M.Sc. / PhD Design Research will be realized by two institutions in Dessau which have in different ways developed skill-sets for re-determining the modern concept of Gestaltung:

Anhalt University will bring to bear its experience in training designers and Theory of Gestaltung while Bauhaus Dessau Foundation provides non-university education formats that focus on updating the Bauhaus heritage.

While using the potential of the cooperating institutions in teaching and researching, a non-consecutive M.Sc. Design Research is established at Anhalt University in cooperation with Bauhaus Dessau Foundation. In order to support the preparations for further doctoral studies, Humboldt University Berlin (and, it is planned, additional partners in future), is contributing to this M.Sc. program as stipulated by an Agreement on Cooperation. The HU also offers particularly well-qualified students the option of starting doctoral studies on this basis directly after graduation. During the subsequent phase of doctoral studies Anhalt University and Bauhaus Dessau Foundation continue on tutoring those students in cooperative teams with Humboldt University Berlin.
Introduction

Albania was one of the most non-urbanized societies up to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Since then, urbanization increased from 30% to 60% and still continues fast. Private initiatives, either formal or informal, are booming despite the global economic recession. Similar experiences can be seen also in Kosovo, Macedonia, and many other Western Balkan regions, including Dalmatian-Adriatic coast, and capitals like Tirana, Pristina, Podgorica, Belgrade, Sarajevo, Skopje and other big cities. Many towns and cities have grown, with surface area and population doubling or even tripling, while rural/remote regions have dried up and are now almost empty. This situation is becoming complex and often dangerous, in social, environmental and political terms. Although reforms have been initiated and international organizations are assisting, change in the local context is still needed, especially with regard to social attitudes, professional mentality, and political visioning. Traditional schools are in desperate need of reform and improvements in curricula content and research. Nationwide capacity building programs must be implemented to support positive changes in this direction. Therefore alternative ideas and institutions are essential and welcomed as such.

Background of Higher Education System in Albania:

The crisis of post-communist period and failure/corruption in public educational institutions obliged Albanian authorities to introduce private sector in higher education during the last decade.
Actually, there is almost a balanced competition established between 12 public universities in capital city and regions, and 10-12 functioning private initiatives in higher education sector, whereby only a few of these have the full “University” status. On the other hand, a balance of the number of students is established: 70% in the public institutions and 30% in the private ones.

Between 2003-2007, parliamentary reform of legislation in Albania adapted educational system some way towards EU/Bologna systems. The new reform “Law on Higher Education”, foresees strict processes of licensing and pre-accreditation (in total a process of 2 years). Then higher education institutions must enter the process of first institutional and program accreditation, before issuing its own first diploma (2-5 years process depending on type of studies Bachelor, Master or Integrated). Accreditation process ends with a final decision with three options: “Yes. Unconditional”; or “Conditional, with 1-2 years time for improvements”; or “Fail; licence is revoked”.

Practically there are two statuses of higher education institutions: the first is called higher education institutions (iaL) and provides maximum applied research; while the second is full “University” status. For the second one, an institution must obtain “no conditional evaluation” from authorities; have clear fiscal records; have at least three big units: 2 faculties + research institute; and employee at least 63 academic & research staff, with minimum 40% of staff with academic titles.

In addition universities must ensure “Quality Assurance” processes, including an internal quality unit/process of 360° evaluation. The accreditation is undertaken by any international recognized accreditation agency and by the “Public agency of accreditation” (APAAL), member of European accreditation network (ENQA). Annual reporting is done by the universities while regular monitoring is undertaken by Ministry of Education and Science (MASH), and by APAAL, and the Fiscal authority. Of course there are lots of problems in the implementation, but good examples in both the public and private sectors can already be identified in Albania today.
POLIS University
Alternative school in Albania and Adriatic-Western Balkan region.

POLIS University (www.universitetipolis.edu.al) is an outcome of the local civic initiatives in Albania since early 90s, and received support from international community during post-communist transition, especially from Dutch organizations. In 1995 an NGO was formalized, namely “Co-PLAN Institute for habitat development” (www.co-plan.org). In 2002 a training center (NET) was established, and in 2005 also an architectural bureau “Metro_POLIS”(www.metropolis.al). Co-PLAN also had strong political impact at the national level by proposing a platform of reforms on territorial issues, environmental healing, and formalization of the economy.

In order to assure the sustainability of values and ideas, Co-PLAN founders pushed for the establishment of U-POLIS (2006) as an alternative educational platform in Albania, and, later on, also in the neighboring countries. Actually POLIS University (U_POLIS) has 2 faculties and 1 Research Institute. Each unit has 3 departments with at least 7 staff, at least 3 with academic credentials of International PhD and/or Professorships title; as well as a dynamic administrative & support team. U_POLIS focuses on issues of Architecture, Design & Territorial Development Policies, by maintaining the depth of focus and enriching opportunities for specialization.

POLIS is signatory of the Observatory of “Magna Charta Universitatum” in Bologna, Italy. It has international recognition, agreements and memberships (EAAE, AESOP, ECLASS, CEEMAN, ENHR, etc.). It is member of the National Conference of Rectors and has good reputation.

POLIS/UNIFE PHD Program
An effort to reposition to International Research & Innovation

Since 2009, POLIS is implementing two Post-graduate programs (second level masters, equivalent of 60 ECTS of PhD) jointly implemented in English language with IHS /
Erasmus University Rotterdam Netherlands, and supported by the MATRA-NUFFIC Programs of the Dutch Government: The focus of such Post-Graduate Masters are: “Urban & Landscape Design”; as well as “Housing, Land & Infrastructure”. By 2011 a joint staff-exchange program of POLIS/UNIFE was approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Albania, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. This was a testing period first then, in 2012, Albanian and Italian authorities granted POLIS the full “University” status, and permission to develop a joint-PhD Program recognized in both countries. Implementation has started and first accreditation will happen in 3 years time.

The principles of this cooperation are based on equal and symmetric responsibilities and benefits. The Program duration is 3 years, full time but extending this to a maximum of 4–5 years may under certain circumstances be permitted for individuals able to study only part-time. The first year of PhD focuses on 60 ECTS theoretical class attendance. Entry criteria and exit exams are determined by law and by university senate. A TOEFL language test or other internationally recognized English exam is mandatory. During the second-third year, students focus on independent research, periodical reporting, and participation in (inter)national conferences, publication of scientific articles, thesis writing and submission, defending. A maximum two courses per year could be assigned to PhD Student who assists his/her own PhD mentor.

Main interest fields of this PhD program are:
Sustainable planning and development, Good governance…
Spatial and regional development, Landscaping, Public space…
Alternative energy, Energy efficiency…
Smart designs, Focus on product design/patenting…
Innovation…

Some internal/partner organizational support structures are:
Scientific & Applied Research Units + Co-PLAN Institute & Metro_POLIS studio
MAD (Multimedia, Art, Design) Center and Gallery
SUST_Lab (Innovation-Energy efficiency Lab + MakeLab

LaurenceTech Detroit USA + Nitro_Sagio Sicily Lab
POLIS-Press unit (Forum A+P Journal, MAD & HABITAT Magazines)
And local biennales: TAW / TDW / TICAB: (www.tiranaarchitectureweek.com)
UNIFE University of Ferrara Italy (www.unife.it)

The Program is open since its accreditation, to other European partnerships, combining partners from northern and southern regions of EU. In the near future we intend to establish a leading PhD & Research Program at European level open to creativity and innovation. The meeting in Cyprus by Archis-Intervention and local partners is a good opportunity to think about potential cooperation and/or exchange.
Faculty of Architecture is one of the eleven Faculties within Eastern Mediterranean University, giving both undergraduate and postgraduate education in architecture, interior architecture and urban design to about a thousand students from different countries.

The Faculty is presenting an interdisciplinary and flexible design education to its international students with its international staff in a student-centered learning environment. The Faculty of Architecture with its two Departments – Architecture and Interior Architecture, has placed education, research and the society in its focus. Accordingly, in its undergraduate and postgraduate programs, both educational and research activities of the two Departments of the Faculty – Architecture and Interior Architecture – concentrate on the physical and the social environment, and consider both global and local conditions. The well-established research centers of the Faculty – Housing Education, Research and Advisory Center (HERA-C) and Design & Research Center (D&R) and the University – Urban Research & Development Center (URDC) also support education and research within the Faculty.

The Doctoral (Ph.D.) Program in Architecture is a research-based program aimed at fundamental studies at the forefront of architecture, urbanism and the built environment. The program is designed to provide thorough training in the theory and practice of architecture, urbanism and other fields related to architecture.

The optional courses of the Doctoral Program, except the two compulsory courses (Advance Research Methods and Interdisciplinary Workshop) are grouped into a number of major fields: design/theory, theory/history, structure/construction, technology, environmental control, interior issues and urban design/urban issues. The courses in the urban design/urban issues group get also the support of the Master of Science in Urban Design Program of the Department of Architecture and 38 % of the total completed thesis is on urban issues.

Concentrating on the main theme of this conference of Archis, these numbers leads us to answer the question of: Why urban design / urbanism / urban issues in EMU Faculty of Architecture?

Thus, we may list the main reasons as such:

- Skilled members of staff on urban design & urbanism
- The characteristics of the context / settlements we have in Cyprus:
  - Urban
  - Rural
  - Historic / traditional / vernacular
  - Coastal
  - Problematic
  - Planned vs. Unplanned
  - Unique (identity)
  - Mediterranean
  - Developing
  - Transforming
  - Multi-cultural / multi-religious
  - Migrating
  - Divided
  - Conflicting
  - Heritage (tangible/intangible)
  - Industrial
  - Fragmented
  - Sprawling
Statements

Ecological
Touristic
- Too many problems in the urban environment to be solved!
- Many students from the region with SIMILAR problems.
- No escape from URBANISM / URBAN ISSUES!

Workshop Statement

If we take the main questions of Archis Interventions Conference and Workshop in Cyprus into consideration, we need to answer the following questions:

HOW TO MOVE FORWARD?
HOW TO SHARE DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES?
HOW TO ENRICH WHAT WE HAVE?
HOW TO EXCHANGE KNOW-HOW?
HOW TO COLLABORATE?

We sure have similar urban problems within the Network countries, especially within the conflicting areas. We surely also have various cases and different experiences of these cases within our Faculties/Universities. Then, why don’t we collaborate and exchange ideas and experiences by using our contested spaces as urban laboratories.

One way of having such collaboration is to set up a common Doctoral (PhD) Program with the volunteer participation of different universities/faculties. There are some examples of such common programs, one of which is the one called “IMIAD - International Master of Interior Architectural Design”, coordinated and run jointly by five European Institutions: Finland / Lahti Polytechnic, Germany / FH STUTTGART, Scotland / ECA, Switzerland / SUPSI, Turkey / ITU, with the mission of creating an international platform for the exchange of educational and professional experiences, views, and approaches to the practice of design. It consists of common lecture modules, a compulsory exchange semester and a month-long workshop where all IMIAD students come together in one of the partner countries. The program promotes teaching staff exchange and joint research. (http://www.icmimarlik.itu.edu.tr/icerik.aspx?sid=6714)

We believe we may take this as a model and adapt it for our own aims and move forward.
The Department of Architecture is part of the Engineering School of the University of Cyprus. It is a four-plus-one-year programme, with the students getting a professional degree by the end of the fifth year. The fifth year is devoted to a diploma project with a professor as advisor. The number of actual academic faculty is eight, supported by a number of adjunct faculty hired for specific courses.

The architectural programme is quite young, since it began in the fall of 2005 with around 20 students. For the professional degree of Architecture there are around 30 students per year, with the first students graduating in 2010. There is actually one graduate programme on sustainable issues, which is an interdisciplinary degree within the Engineering School.

Concerning doctorate research, each academic faculty could direct a number of doctorate researches that relate to hers or his research interests. Consequently the research subjects are diverse: from technology-based research, to theory and history and urbanism. What is special about the doctorands is that they could come from fields outside the discipline of architecture, for example, from planning, as well as from the humanities or engineering.

I have been teaching at the Department of Architecture since 2006, concentrating on Urban Design and the political dimension of architectural trajectories. My research interests lie in that in-between zone of research and practice, and I use the notion of designerly knowledge to investigate the political dimensions of architecture and urban design, especially in contested spaces. Some key words are: contested spaces, liminalities, translocalities, theory of practice.
About the workshop

The issues that were raised through the very interesting workshop was how to collaborate between academic institutions, on joint efforts of doctorate research into urbanism that is focused on conflict zones, and on the politics of architecture, as Kai Vockler presented very clearly.

It was suggested to start a curatorial practice that would make explicit important problems within such contexts, and thus provide input for possible research. In other words, to mobilize practices through networks that could dig out from contested spaces a field of topics to do research on.

Issues of collaboration were raised regarding the difficulties of academic collaboration across the divide in Cyprus.

Another issue raised was the degree of formality and institutionalization such endeavor should take. It was mentioned that the less institutionalized, the more flexible it could be, thus enabling difficulties that are rather present in conflict zones to be bypassed. Further on, it was noted that networking would enable resource sharing between the academic institutions, allowing a sort of “mobile research” to take place, a “migrating program”. Nevertheless, questions were raised about whose institution’s rules to follow when such doctorate research is to be ratified. Further on, participants were urged to search for similar initiatives for joint doctorate research between institutions and how they deal with such issues of accreditation and such.

Another point raised was to introduce in the research project the institutions to whom such research would be addressed—for example, local governments, NGOs, civil society groups, planning authorities, etc.
Statements

Resmiye Alpar Atun
Department of Architecture
Eastern Mediterranean University

_Statement_

Department of Architecture offers 4 Master’s program and a PhD program in Architecture to provide high quality service and research to the national and international community. It is within one of the leading candidate schools of architecture within the region, in which the graduate programs in the Department are accredited with Y.O.K. (Higher Education Council in Turkey) and recognized by international academic associations such as European Association of Architectural Education, European University Association and International Association of Universities. Master’s programs are structured as thesis and non-thesis options in programs of Architecture and in Urban Design; M.S. (Master of Science in Architecture) with Thesis (since 1995), M.Arch. (Master of Architecture) One Year Project based Professional Degree Program, without thesis (since 2011), M.S. in Urban Design (since 2009 spring), Master of Urban Design One Year Project based Professional Degree Program without thesis (will be started in fall 2013).

Structure of Masters Programs

The overall collaboration between, and flexibility within programs is considered since all courses belonging to different programs are offered to all students. Therefore students can take courses from different programs according to their fields of interest. This also helps to enrich the programs in terms of courses offered and tutor profiles. Full time students enrolled in a Master’s degree program including thesis work, study minimum two, maximum four semesters. Part time master’s students study minimum three, maximum six semesters. Non-thesis master programs can be completed in a minimum of twelve months or a maximum of four semesters.

Structure of the PhD Program

Duration of studies in a Ph.D. program is a minimum of four and a maximum of ten semesters for full time students. Part-time doctoral candidates need to study minimum six, maximum fourteen semesters. Concerning the doctorate research, each academic faculty could direct a number of doctorate researches that relate to hers or his research interests. Consequently the research subjects are diverse, ranging from technology-based research, to theory and history and urbanism. The number of courses required in the Doctoral level programs is 7 courses (21 credit hours), in addition to the Ph.D. qualifying exam and doctoral dissertation. Students should publish an article about their thesis in an indexed journal in order to defend their thesis in front of a jury.

About the Workshop

The main target of the workshop was to initiate collaboration between different academic institutions/relevant bodies on joint practices on issues such as conflict zones. Although the term ‘conflict’ was at first understood in reference to divided Nicosia, it was explored through the discussions as a broad subject, encompassing various dimensions of urban development, and different scales of development within different contextual frameworks. Therefore, basically, the contested/conflicted zones became the focus of concentration for achieving a joint ‘event’ in general. The event can be a post-graduate program proposal/a joint studio/a joint symposium/periodical workshop or practices that can be focused on different conflicted settings. The idea would appear to provide a common platform that can bring different researchers from different institutions together,
for the purpose of contributing to the ‘challenging theme of conflicted urban settings’.

The methodology implicit in ‘combining interests in conflicted territories/settings’, was also discussed. Several options exist, such as producing a network of research on conflict issues, or activating relevant researchers as representatives of their institutions. At that point, issues of collaboration were raised regarding the difficulties of institutional collaboration between different parties of the conflicted setting of Cyprus. Therefore, the workshop was very beneficial as it tried to find answers to such issues as the beneficiary group (target group), demands about conflict issues, institutional representations, and the milieu for platforms (specific place / shifted places according to theme/virtual environment-through internet...), and to achieve inclusive structures within the relevant bodies. Although there was no concrete outcome as such, the process was started. The discussions helped to root the issues and debates in real-life contexts.
Charis Psaltis  
Department of Psychology  
University of Cyprus

Statement

The idea of a joint PhD is a very good idea and I would propose that if such a PhD materializes, it should be interdisciplinary and combine a social psychology module on intergroup relations with the role of contact and space. One thing you need to take account of in Cyprus, in my opinion, is how to structure collaboration between the academics from both communities. There is benefit in collaboration, no doubt, but it needs to happen in such a way that it will not become unproductive or threatening for the people involved. Working under the auspices of an NGO and academics getting involved in their personal (rather than professional) capacity could be one possible solution.
Stefan Ghenciulescu  
“Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism

Statement

The discussion emphasized a mutual obsession: the SEE countries’s desire for westernization and Western academies and scholars desire to research and work in the region. Within the region, however, the will to collaborate is still quite weak. ‘Why is collaboration necessary?’ becomes the essential question, preliminary to any concrete program. After the ‘Why?’ question, essential issues that come up are: Which venue(s) can host these programs? and: What are the funding options? In more general terms, the arguments for collaboration rely on a shared past and several common cultural features, but also on a set of common problems. We can share strategies and good practice examples, and a strong body of spatial expertise. Especially in this region, the social (but also political) relevance of urban problems is huge and therefore calls for multinational and multidisciplinary expertise, and a combination of academic and research activities and concrete projects. The Home for Cooperation in Nicosia is an inspiring example of such a dedicated synergy.
Conclusion

During the conference presentations and the workshop, the participants concentrated on the prospects of a collaborative PhD program with an interdisciplinary approach and a focus on urban policy.

Workshop discussions took place on a variety of topics and many questions were raised as well:

- A mobile program, which can be localized on different sites in the region, operates out of a network of collaborating universities – the problem of different PhD regulations have to be taken into account.

- How to cooperate? A program on exile (cooperation on research, project-based cooperation), which can go to different sites in the world (e.g. post-conflict urban development, for example, in South Sudan,) where each participant will come and bring in the institutional background and its specific expertise. Research by bridging different disciplines, designing a research process. People from the Balkans have a special expertise due to the changes in the region.

- What are the results beyond individual knowledge? At the end, educational material will be produced to use in the collaborating universities. Fosters a more practice-orientated approach by doing research in the field, which can lead to / can be a basis for an intervention/project.

- How to bridge (local) master programs and an international PhD program? How to address future participants of the PhD program?

- The problem of financing: but EU now requires PhD programs to be collaborations. [To be checked].

- The program could migrate also from one university to the next, but in practical terms this would be difficult. This has to be more widely discussed.

- Who are the participants/who is the target audience?

- How can interest/awareness be created/raised?

- Specialization can be a problem!

- Can a PhD program solve problems? Specialization and politics!

- Why cooperate? Answer: to use the potential of a network, the richness of experience and knowledge.

- What kind of expertise do you get out of such a PhD program? What is the need for skilled people in architecture/urbanism, social and political sciences to join the program? A specific expertise in questions of urban development and urban policy, for example, in post-conflict or transformation situations.

- Joint PhDs may promote peace and cooperation.

- What new features do we have to offer? A better understanding of urban development based on fusing political, social and architectural/urbanistic expertise?

- Thematic foci: post-conflict, transformation, contested
spaces... how do limitations become advantages? Themes have to be identified.

- Starting with smaller steps: sharing first and building a network later

- Research innovative PhD programs in this field, e.g. Goldsmith College

- How to survive the bureaucratic processes? No escape!

See also:
Joint-PhDs: A Guide by Dr Nathalie Mather-L’Huillier

In principle, participants agreed that a new collaborative PhD program with an interdisciplinary approach (urbanism and urban policy) and focussing on urban post-conflict and transformation situations is challenging, but is really needed: an expertise in this field will be also needed in the future!

As a next step, a meeting in Tirana in October is under discussion. In the meantime, research will be done into existing PhD programs with a somehow similar approach, possibilities of funding will be checked, also locally, and possible collaborations will be discussed. As usual, all this is based on personal relations between people who want to work together. The conference and workshop showed the great opportunities for a program like this.

Conclusion
Participants

Prof. Dr. Besnik Aliaj is rector of the POLIS International School of Architecture and Urban Development Policies and a founding member of Co-PLAN.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Resmiye Alpar Atun is an academic member teaching architectural design, urban design and urban regeneration at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, Eastern Mediterranean University.

Prof. Dr. Petar Bojanic is professor of philosophy and teaches the philosophy of architecture, among other courses. He is director of the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory (University of Belgrade, Serbia) and director and co-director of two centers: Center for Ethics, Law and Applied Philosophy and regional Center for Advanced Studies based in Rijeka, Croatia.

Prof. Dr. Vladan Djokic is Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade.

Ass. Prof. Dr. Stefan Ghenciulescu is Assistant Professor at the “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest and a practising architect. He is editor-in-chief of “Zeppelin” magazine and co-founder of “Zeppelin Association”, Bucharest.

Prof. Dr. Sebnem Onal Hoskara is an architect in North Cyprus. Currently professor at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, at the Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus, and the Dean of the faculty. She is co-founder of Archis Interventions_Cyprus Initiative.

Prof. Stephan Pinkau is Professor of Architecture at Anhalt University in Dessau and currently has the position of Dean of Studies at his faculty there. Recently, he worked out a cooperative M.Sc. / PhD program involving Anhalt University, Bauhaus Dessau Foundation and Humboldt University. This program is going to start in 2014.

Ass. Prof. Dr. Charis Psaltis is an assistant professor at the Department of Psychology of the University of Cyprus, holder of MPhil, 2001 and PhD, 2005, in Social and Developmental Psychology with Post-doctoral studies on Intergroup Conflict. He is a co-founder of the multi-communal Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, 2003.

Ass. Prof. Dr. Socrates Stratis is an architect and urbanist with a doctoral degree in urbanism. He is Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus. Stratis is one of the founding members of AA&U for Architecture, Art, and Urbanism.

Prof. Dr. Kai Voeckler is currently Endowed Professor for Creativity in Urban Contexts at the Offenbach University of Art and Design. He is co-founder of Archis Interventions and programme director for the Southeastern Europe (SEE) program.
Credits

Archis Interventions_South Eastern Europe
Program Director: Kai Voeckler

In collaboration with Center for Advanced Studies, Rijeka

Archis Interventions_Cyprus
Esra Can Akbil, Giorgos Psaltis, Sebnem Hoskara
Cemaliye Eken

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