

GUDesing network Thematic Node_Housing People, Shaping Cities Thematic Node
Cooperative House-Building Practices in the Aftermath of WWII



Co-ordinators: Panayotis Tournikiotis and Konstantina Kalfa

In the aftermath of WWII and during the era of global economic expansion pressing housing demands in Europe and beyond were met by the well-established pre-war policy of housing blocks. Next to these state-led schemes, however, housing was also realized by cooperatives engaged in ad-hoc practices of house-building and real estate exploitation. An indicative example is the case of the Greek postwar city. Rural migrants that vastly increased the Athenian and other Greek cities' population between 1950 and 1970, found themselves transforming the city through a popular contract of exchange of land for new apartments on this land, known as *antiparochi*. *Antiparochi* spread the typical modern-inspired mid-rise apartment block, the polykatoikia, creating a sense of progress, prosperity and modernization, from the level of everyday facilities to the overall image of the city.

GUDesign Seminar 'Cooperative House-Building Practices in the Aftermath of WWII' gathers researchers who draw on similar house-building practices, which expand our perception of the possible strands and forms of architectural modernity and the subjects that produce and/or consume it. The Seminar seeks to advance beyond theorizations of historical instances of small-scale enterprise and cooperative house-building practices, idealized as spontaneous and bottom-up approaches to housing or, at the antipode, criticized as failed attempts and incomplete transitions to modernity. It, instead, aspires to develop critical stances toward the framing of such examples of home-making which led to different forms of urbanization. The examination of the administrative, political and economic context and the impact of Cold War politics are here crucial for the understanding and comparative examination of the different cases. Our aim, in this seminar, is to critically revisit and investigate patterns of similarities or map out structural differences between the various cities and countries, and between the various periodizations of history.

-PROGRAMME-

Juhana Heikonen - *Aalto University, Finland*

The Finnish Limited Liability Housing Companies Act in Helsinki and Affordable Housing for the New Urban Working Classes

November 3, 2021 – 5pm CET_ [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Sıla Karataş- *École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland*

How the Labour Self-Build: Marshall Plan and Workers' Housing Cooperatives in Turkey

November 10, 2021 – 5pm CET_ [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Maryam Shafiei - *University of Queensland, Australia*

Agencies of Individuals in Changing Settlement's Morphology: Small-Scale Cooperative Housing in Rural/Urban Settlements of Tehran

November 17, 2021 – 1pm CET_ [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Marija Drėmaitė - *Vilnius University, Lithuania*

Co-operative Housing in State Socialist Lithuania as a Field of Architectural and Social Experimentation

November 24, 2021 – 5pm CET_ [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Ana Esteban-Maluenda and Celia Castro Gonsales - *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain and Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Brazil*

A Manifesto of Minimums. The 'Pobladados Dirigidos' of Madrid as a Laboratory of Modern Social Housing (1955-1967)

December 1, 2021 – 5pm CET_ [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Christos Kritikos - *National Technical University of Athens, Greece*

'Urbanophilia' VS 'Urban Reconstruction' Across the Post-War Greek Political Spectrum

December 8, 2021 – 5pm CET _ [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

2. **Speaker:** Sila Karataş

Title: How the Labour Self-Build: Marshall Plan and Workers' Housing Cooperatives in Turkey

Abstract: This presentation aims to discuss the transnational activity and discourse behind the programmatic shift in spatial production and layout of workers' housing in Turkey from the state-financed model of the interwar period to the assisted self-help model by the introduction of the Marshall Plan after the World War II. In particular, the paper argues that the ideological and spatial activity and discourse of the Marshall Plan indoctrinating 'democracy, cooperation and freedom' instrumentalized workers' housing cooperatives for the promotion of postwar Americanization.

Turkey, like other participating countries of the Marshall Plan, witnessed domestic migration and rapid urbanization, and thus a great housing shortage and informal construction boom at the peripheries of cities due to industrial and infrastructural development as well as to agricultural mechanization. This postwar development activity was guided by financial and technical assistance programs of the United States and related multilateral organizations. Cooperative housing was popularized by the state as a low-cost and efficient construction model against the housing shortage and as an element of Fordist decentralization, but rather to construct the productive and affluent middle class 'worker' of the postwar welfare state through home ownership in especially single-family housing.

Based on workers' pension funds released from the Workers' Insurance Agency and loaned by the Mortgage Loans Bank, the legislative and institutional layout of this self-help model eliminated the state-financed technocratic practice of the interwar period for free/rental housing in factory site. Instead, it introduced an assisted community practice of workers for home ownership by providing free/cheap land and construction loans but also by casting a role for worker inhabitants as builders, which pioneered the current real-

estate development as it channelled workers into informal systems of capital, construction, and home ownership. This housing practice also guided modern urbanization and urban sprawl through specific settlement morphologies and architectural typologies in urban peripheries. Single-family detached house promoted in the initial years of the model shifted to multi-family housing block due to the rise of land prices and construction costs, which made apartment block on individual parcel as the common practice of modern housing in Turkey.



The presentation refers to official documents and reports prepared by foreign experts as well as to practices of political parties, social policy officials, planners, architects, and labour unions next to exemplary cooperative settlements. Therefore, it aims to highlight the role of the Marshall Plan and related transnational activity on local policy, program, and architectural practice of workers' housing as well as the political and spatial instrumentality of cooperatives for postwar Americanization.

-SHORT BIOS-

Panayotis Tournikiotis is Dean of the School of Architecture, NTUA, Professor of History and Theory of Architecture and Director of the *Laboratory of History and Theory of Architecture*. Among his books, abundantly cited throughout, are: *Adolf Loos* (1991), *The Parthenon and its Impact in Modern Times* (1994) (awarded the International Architectural Book Award of the American Institute of Architects in 1995 and 1997 respectively) *The Historiography of Modern Architecture* (1999) (prize of the Academy of Athens, 2000, translated into Greek, Spanish, Chinese) and *The diagonal of Le Corbusier* (2010). He is a member of DOCOMOMO International Executive Committee, a member of the Advisory board of the Oslo Center for Critical Architectural Studies (OCCAS) and a regional Editor of several scientific journals.

Konstantina Kalfa is a Post-Doc Research Associate at the National Technical University of Athens and Adjunct Professor of architectural history at the Athens School of Fine Arts. Her research focuses on informal housing practices and how these are intertwined with multiple types of politics and social conflicts. She is the recipient of numerous awards and highly-competitive research grants, including the current PI Research Grant from the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and the General Secretariat for Research and Technology. Her publications have appeared in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, *Rethinking Marxism* and *Architecture and Culture* (special issue dedicated to the *Industries of Architecture* Conference).

Juhana Heikonen is an Architect SAFA, D.S. (Tech.) and a post-doctoral researcher in the ERC funded project *Law, Governance and Space. Questioning the Foundations of the Republican Tradition* at the University of Helsinki. He is specialized in the history of housing production and the impact of classical antiquity on western architecture.

Sıla Karataş is an architect and awarded Master's degree with the thesis "Building Marshall Plan in Turkey: The Formation of Workers' Housing Question, 1946-1962" at the Middle East Technical University in 2015. She worked as assistant and lecturer in Turkey between 2012-2019; took part in design studios and gave Case Studies in Social Housing and Community Planning among other courses. Since September 2019, she is a PhD student and doctoral assistant at EPFL. Her PhD research concerns postwar workers' housing programs of the Mediterranean countries participated in the Marshall Plan (France, Italy, Greece, Turkey), and is a comparative analysis of local models in relation to the transnational activity by the United States and multilateral organizations on postwar development, labour affairs and housing. This research is awarded a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship for PhD.

Maryam Shafiei completed two coursework architectural degrees and a PhD in Architecture and Urban Planning fields. For her PhD, she studied the typology of changes in the settlement and housing patterns in urban edges in the Asian context particularly in Tehran (Iran). Since 2017, She has actively contributed as a tutor and research assistant to ongoing teaching and research efforts at the school of Architecture, the University of Queensland. She published papers and presented in several conferences, and was awarded several prizes and scholarships for her design and research outcomes.

Marija Drémaitė is a Professor at Vilnius University, Faculty of History. She holds a PhD in the history of architecture (2006). Her research is focused on 20th century architecture, housing and cultural heritage. She is the author of *Baltic Modernism: Architecture and Housing in Soviet Lithuania* (Berlin: DOM Publishers, 2017) and editor of *Architecture of Optimism: The Kaunas Phenomenon, 1918-1940* (Vilnius: Lapas, 2018). Currently she leads a research project on residential architecture in soviet Lithuania.

Ana Esteban Maluenda is tenured Associate Professor at the School of Architecture of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid from 2008. For more than two decades, she has been publishing research on modern Ibero-American architecture in Spain, Portugal, Italy, United Kingdom, Estonia,

Croatia, United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and Chile. Her research has been granted by several institutions, among them the SAH and the GAHTC (USA), and the Government of Spain. General Editor for the Global South at *Architectural Histories*, journal of the EAHN, and Chair of the 7th EAHN conference, to be held in Madrid in 2022.

Célia Castro Gonsales is Programme Director of the Master Course in Architecture and Urban Planning and Professor of architectural theory, criticism and history at the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning at the Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil. She has carried out Post-Doc research at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and her research focuses on social housing in Latin America and its impact on the construction of cities, especially in the second half of the 20th century. She is a member of National Association for Research and post- Graduate Studies in Architecture and co-author of the book *A Casa Contemporânea Brasileira – The contemporary Brazilian house* (2019).

Christos-Georgios Kritikos is an architect and a PhD candidate (NTUA) based in Athens. His research focuses on the way heritage practices inform architectural historiography and the general perception of the built environment. He holds a MA in Architectural history from the Bartlett School of Architecture, U.C.L. (2016), a M.Sc. in Methodology of Research in Architecture from the National Technical University of Athens (2017) and a Diploma in Architecture from the same university (2014). Until now he has been working as an architectural historian, a teaching assistant (NTUA) and a research associate in various research programs.

