
Hybrid Urbanscapes: The city, the landscape, the dwelling

Blended Intensive Program (BIP) Volos, Greece 1-6 July 2024

Description

The recent floods and disasters in Thessaly in September 2023 (Daniel and Helias storms) brought to the fore the issue of the balance between the natural and man-made environment. The dominant model of man-made constructions (buildings and cities and infrastructures) takes the subordination of nature for granted. The example of the overflowing rivers and the disaster they caused in the three major Thessalian cities (Volos, Larissa, Trikala) to several villages in the Thessaly plane and to Pelion villages raised -in a harsh way- the issue of rethinking this subordination of nature as nature nowadays seems to re-claim vital space more often than in the past.

This BIP course will focus on recent phenomena and aims to a better understanding of the various aspects and scales that we must consider. In this way we will re-read architecture and landscape as an active and evolving system that shapes both city and nature while at the same time adapts to their distinct dynamics.

Specific Thematic

The BIP will be developed along three themes / scales. The city, the landscape, and the dwelling

Case study 1: City in Water

The case study refers to the Giannouli social housing estate (Melina Merkouri estate) in Larisa which has been heavily affected from 2023 floods.

Case study 2: The Lake which became a Plane which became a Lake

Lake Karla was dried in 1962 to provide agricultural land. In 2010 the effects to the ecosystem led to the decision of recreating part of the original lake. The Daniel Storm and the Pineios floods brought the lake to the size it had before the 1962 drying.

Case study 3: Fishing stones out of houses

The small stone house of the artist A. Psyhoulis at Mikro village in south Pelion was destroyed when the adjacent stream washed out the foundations of the building. Today the dwelling is a pile of stones and objects from its previous life.

Timetable

Sunday 30/6/2024 arrival day

20.00 Professors welcoming

Monday 1/7/2024:

9.00-10.00 Introduction of the BIP

10.00-14.00 Lecture session I

17.00 – 21.00 Lecture session II: UTH students present relevant projects prepared in courses during the previous year. Discussion

21.00 Welcome party

Tuesday 2/7/2024: Case study 1: Giannouli housing estate, Larisa

9.00-14.00 Bus trip from Volos to Larisa. Estate visit. Discussions with inhabitants, meetings with officials and planners from the municipality of Larisa.

17.00 – 21.00 Working session I

Wednesday 3/7/2024: Case study 2: Karla Lake

9.00 – 14.00 Bus trip from Volos to Karla lake. Area visit. Karla Museum.

17.00 – 21.00 Working session II

Thursday 4/7/2024: Case study 3: The house at Mikro

9.00 – 20.00: Bus trip from Volos to Platanias village and then 20 min walk to Mikro village. Meeting the artist, work on site. Lunch.

Friday 5/7/2024 Exhibition and farewell party

9.00- 14.00 Work session III

17.00-21.00 Work session IV: Preparation of Exhibition

Saturday 6/6/2024

10.00 Exhibition opening. Round table. Discussion

Participating Universities EU

- University of Thessaly (Greece - Host university)
- Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes (France)
- Faculty of Architecture, Università Luigi Vanvitelli (Italy)
- Anhalt University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- Eindhoven Technical University (Nederland)
- Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Italy)

Participating Universities extra-EU

- Euromed University of Fès (Morocco)
- Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (Argentina)

Online sessions 15/6/2024 – 28/6/2024

The BIP includes online lectures which will prepare the students, introduce the three themes, present the data from Daniel Storm etc.

Deliverables

1. Students will work in groups; each group will produce a poster on the theme. All students will produce a sketchbook which will contain their workshop experience. Posters and books will be part of the final exhibition. Audiovisual material (ie short videos) is also welcomed.
2. The pre-workshop lectures and the material developed during the workshop will be published in a book by UTH Editions

Recognition

The BIP counts for 3 ECTS and the participating institutions recognize it as part of the students' workload.