

The Athens Byzantine and Christian Museum
in collaboration with SARCHA (School of ARCHitecture for All)
2008 international architecture research events



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Proposal Submission form

(Submission e-mail: unbuilt.bma@culture.gr or unbuilt.bma@gmail.com)

Proposal Title

Swarm Micro –Architectures (SMA)

(D.Papalexopoulos, A.Stavridou, A. Kouveli, D.Papadopoulos)

Category (exhibition/lecture/workshop/seminar/panel discussion/other)

Exhibition – panel discussion

Content (300 words maximum)

Swarm micro-architectures in the metropolis, catalyse collective activities and events. They support the possibility of change to those parts of the urban that are considered by official planning, not really empty or un-built, but “at disposition”. As swarms are informed by ambient networks, they are transformed to multitudes, “commons” constantly actualized.

We will take as reference Takis Zenetos’ “The centre is materialized at the moment and in the place of the action” (Electronic Urbanism).

A population of monads is formed interacting at a global level with one another and at a local level with their environment. Although there is normally no centralized control structure dictating how individual monads should behave, local interactions between such agents often lead to the emergence of global behavior. Is it an architecture slightly out of control or a novel form of utopia “inserted” into the urban fabric? The multiple ways of defining global interactions responds to the parametric change of local monads. We could remark that fluidity and fragmentation characterize both the physical and the digital space, since physical space possesses continuous, fluid features and

the digital space allows for the development of activities which are fragmented in time. What is important to keep in mind is the interweaving, which is simultaneous without clear distinction, of the fluid and fragmented time. Multiples monads will occupy Athens, a “space without qualities”. When they act as multitudes, their mutations and changes activate the space they occupy, causing different qualities to emerge, temporary fields to be formed, and multiple unpredictable relationships to build up.

SMA is the central research theme of the post grad course “Architecture and Information Technology” (www.ntua.gr/archtech), post grad program “Design Space Culture” of the School of Architecture, N.T.U.A. The students research results will form the core of the proposed exhibition.

Short CV

Dimitris Papalexopoulos is an architect, Professor at the School of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens. Post - graduate course on “Architecture and Information Technology” (www.ntua.gr/archtech). Co-organization of international symposiums on architecture and I.T and on intelligent environments. Researches on interaction design and building knowledge management. Member of the 2006 EC expert group for the elaboration and evaluation of the *Digital Territories* concept. Author of articles on architecture and I.T. Recently, co-author (with Eleni Kalafati) of *Takis Zenetos, Visioni digitali, architetture costruite*, EdilStampa. Archsign, his architectural firm (www.archsign.gr), develops building design concepts for evolving space activities through I.T.

Athina Stavridou, Architect, teaches at the School of Architecture N.T.U.A. Specialized Postgraduate Diploma on "Architecture - Space Planning", division Design - Space - Culture. NTUA School of Architecture - Inter-Departmental Postgraduate Program, graduating 2000. Working on doctoral thesis: "Space without Qualities", the spatial effects of technological changes. She is teaching undergraduate courses, at the School of Architecture, N.T.U.A., as lecturer. Co-operator in postgraduate course on “Information Technology and Architecture”; *from total design to global planning*, N.T.U.A. School of Architecture. Taught Information Technology at the University of Thessaly (U.T.H.) 2003-2004. Archsign member.

Angela Kouveli, architect N.T.U.A. mphil on architecture - space planning n.t.u.a., march IaaC (Institute of Advanced Architecture of Catalunya). Researches on Architecture and I.T. Architectural work since 2002 with Archsign.

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