

Editorial

“Ekistics-related research in Greece: A critical approach to the Ekistics Legacy” - Dedicated to Panayis Psomopoulos (1926-2017)

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The present issue is the first part of a two-part ensemble of special issues of the *Ekistics and the New Habitat* journal under the theme “Ekistics-related research in Greece”. Greece presently has a constantly growing community of researchers, academics, and scholars, regularly involved with the issues and the field of Human Settlements. This issue is exploring the current discussion on Ekistics or Ekistics-related work by many scholars and researchers in Greece and abroad. The authors are academics and/or practitioners, of Greek and other nationalities, focusing on the study of Human Settlements and their related infrastructures, on the quest for better living conditions for the people.

This double issue is dedicated to Panayis Psomopoulos, architect/planner, a close collaborator of C. A. Doxiadis and my dear godfather. Panayis’ continuous efforts and total commitment to the continuation of the Ekistics Legacy kept the Ekistics flame alive and growing worldwide for almost 35 years. It is to him that we owe the predecessor of the present “Ekistics and the New Habitat Journal”, the previous “Ekistics Journal”, which reflected the preservation and further development of his lifelong work and of C. A. Doxiadis’s legacy.

Ekistics, the Science of Human Settlements was established by the great Greek architect and town-planner Constantinos A. Doxiadis (1913-1975) in the fifties and sixties. It entails a transdisciplinary approach to human space in all its possible scales, from the basic shelter unit up to the region, the nation and even the whole globe. The study of space configurations and organization, through the introduction of different scientific fields (as ecology, sociology, anthropology, economics, legislation, transportation, urban design, and statistics) broadened the Ekistics research, education, and documentation, and created an international network of cooperation aiming at future action, regarding pressing matters of the habitat.

For more than 30 years, under the leadership of C.A. Doxiadis and his close collaborator planner Jaqueline Tyrwhitt (1905–83) the Athens Technological Organization (ATO) and the Athens Center of Ekistics (ACE) brought together a wide range of internationally respected scientists and professionals from many fields, focusing on the improvement of the problems and possibilities of Human Settlements, and contributing to the quest for better living conditions and of techno-economic development. At the same time ACE/ATO promoted its ideas and research on Human Settlements through the Delos Symposia (from 1963 to 1975) and a worldwide publication: The Ekistics journal (1957-2007). Notwithstanding the underlying strategic need to communicate the Ekistics agenda to an international audience of powerful decision-makers throughout the globe, both the Delos Symposia and the Ekistics magazine acted as a constantly growing integrated forum for the ideas and proposals of experts and visionaries of their time, as Buckminster Fuller, Marshall McLuhan, Margaret Mead, Barbara Ward, the Japanese Metabolists (Kenzo Tange and Fumihiko Maki), Team 10 and the Archigram group, Space Syntax (Bill Hillier et al) and others.

After the death of C.A. Doxiadis (in 1975) and of Jaqueline Tyrwhitt (in 1983), ATO/ACE, the Ekistics network (the World Society for Ekistics/WSE) and the Ekistics journal continued under the care and coordination of Doxiadis’ close collaborator Panayis Psomopoulos, architect-planner. The Ekistics network continued to grow and expanded to 140 countries worldwide. After Psomopoulos’s death (in 2017), several planners and scientists around the world, who share the ideas and vision of the Ekistics theory, met during the Quito 2016 Conference that formulated the Quito Agreement for sustainable Human Settlements, and took the initiative to publish a successor of the Ekistics magazine under the new title: *Ekistics and the New Habitat: The Problems and Science of Human Settlements*.

Part 1 of this Special Issue, with the subtheme “A critical approach to the Ekistics Legacy”, is focused on the current dialectics on Human Settlements and explores the up-to-date discourse on Ekistics, as a legacy that still prevails in the 21st century, and can be further studied, modified and perfected, as an existing, but also, as a reinvented science for many scholars, offering a solid ground for potential investigation and accumulative knowledge.

In this current issue, a contribution of my own considers the Development Project of Doxiadis Associates in Lebanon (1957-9), with Panayis Psomopoulos embarking on his first project assignment at the Doxiadis Associates Firm. Catharine Nagashima presents us with a critical analysis of the theory of Ekistics, contributing to its further development, based on the outcome of meticulous research of many years. George Giannopoulos reexamines and questions the notion of Ecumenopolis as seen in the context of today’s international transport and communications networks. Mark David Major et al, present a multiple analysis on the notion of Ecumenopolis and the importance of further analysis of Doxiadis’ ideas about Dynapolis and Entopia in addressing placemaking in cities, by additionally introducing the analytical techniques of Space Syntax. Vaso Trova analyses

similarities and differences between the original Doxiadis class community models and the “Doxiadis pattern” used for the development of the northern part of Najran city in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia using analytical techniques, as Space Syntax. Vasiliki Felekoura and Kostas Tsiambaos study the importance and the legacy of the work of Jaqueline Tyrwhitt over the years. Nikos Belavilas and Polina Prentou critically approach the current issues and problems of the city of Piraeus, Attica. Harrison Blackman investigates the creation and destruction of Doxiadis’s Apollonion in Porto Rafti. Melodi Pak Karaöz examines Entopia’s historical and spatial context by investigating the uniqueness of the concept among the place theories of the same era, aiming to re-open a discussion on Ekistics. Vassilis Evmolpidis shares with us insights of the work that was taking place at the Doxiadis Associates Office, with a special mention to Panayis Psomopoulos.

The present double issue could not have been possible without the continuous support and help of Prof. Dr. George Giannopoulos, who guided me all the way through the whole process up to the very last moment, Mrs. Giota Pavlidou, Director of the C.A. Doxiadis Archives, whose expertise, help and support are always invaluable, to the previous Editor-in-Chief Prof. Dr. Kurt Seemann, who accepted whole-heartedly my proposal for a special issue, helping and guiding me when I initially started and to the Doxiadis family who supported me in many ways.

This issue is the outcome of collective work therefore I owe many thanks to the current Editor-in-Chief Prof. Dr. Derya Oktay, to the Deputy-Editor Dr. Ian Fookes, to our Assistant Editors and close collaborators, Prof. Dr. Ioanna Theocharopoulou, Dr. Lefteris Theodosis and Harrison Blackman, and last but not least, special thanks are due to all the authors who contributed their work, sharing with us their ideas and knowledge, for an issue in memory of Panayis Psomopoulos.

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