

OIKODOMOS is a Virtual Campus co-financed by the Long Life Learning Programme of the European Union to support housing studies in Europe. In the first two years of the project, 2007-2009, OIKODOMOS has developed, implemented, tested and evaluated an innovative pedagogic model based on a blended learning approach which combines on-line learning activities carried out in web-based environments -specifically designed for this Virtual Campus- with seminars, design studios and workshops physically taking place at the participating universities. The goal of the third year project activities (2010-2011), is to consolidate the pedagogic model and expand the Virtual Campus to other institutions.

This OIKODOMOS Workshop provides an opportunity for institutions and students to participate in the design and implementation of the learning activities carried out in the Virtual Campus. Three Workshops have already taken place at the Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst, Sint-Lucas Ghent (October 2008), Institut d'Urbanisme de Grenoble, Université Pierre Mendès-France, Grenoble, France (April 2009) and the Faculty of Architecture, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava (October 2009). The fourth international OIKODOMOS Workshop will take place in the Istanbul Technical University (ITU), in May 2011. The workshop is organized by the HREC Housing Research and Education Center in ITU with the cooperation of the HERA Center from the Eastern Mediterranean University.

4th International OIKODOMOS WORKSHOP: HOUSING and PROXIMITY Istanbul Technical University, 2-6 May 2011



Photography: HERA-C Archive

The main objective of this International Workshop will be to analyze -or rethink- the status and design of the contemporary housing in densification processes taking place in European suburban landscapes. Besides, existing theories and practices of the compact city -as a way to preserve the natural landscape, control and limit the urban sprawl, reduce energy consume and consolidate social cohesion, reality- often shows a contrasting practice of low dense landscapes conditioning an efficient and sustainable functioning of urban systems. This dual reality of the built environment -compact cities vs. low density suburban areas- will be equally considered during the workshop. This workshop focuses on the relation between the housing typology and its suburban surrounding and stimulates critical reflection about recent phenomena in an international context. The workshop will start from the idea that urban space is based on models of proximity: on a small scale, as well as on a bigger scale. Therefore, we should start asking ourselves: **what does proximity refer to?**

Important dates:

March 31, 2011 - Deadline for sending CV, motivation and statement
April 15, 2011 - Reviewers feedback and notifications of acceptance
May 2, 2011 - Start workshop



Housing and Proximity

Proxemic models affect our reading and use of space and refer to an important cultural dimension of the built environment: systems of intimate, personal, social or public distances are based on our education and cultural references. However, proximity can refer as well to the built environment itself, or to the general urban patterns.

Manuel de Solà-Morales once stated that urban space can be seen as "a system of relative distances": systems of distances between housing blocks, between individual dwellings, between leisure facilities and residential neighborhoods, between industrial areas, wastelands and residential development areas. As if they were sets of rules to be decided, coded and decoded at various levels, by various agents. These systems of distances do not operate exclusively on a bigger scale: they penetrate the very domain of the dwelling itself: distances from the street to the front door, from the entrance door to the living room, the distance between the kitchen, as the heart of the dwelling, and the bedrooms, being the more intimate territories within the domestic space. Dwellings could be seen as configurations of distances, where physical distances obtain additional meaning: bigger or smaller distances can mean higher or lower possibility of contact, of sharing space. In other words, proximity also refers to a social dimension: sets of distances define the level of collective use within a project, from the scale of the domicile, to the scale of the neighborhood. Distance can become social distance.

In recent years, social distance is increasingly understood as a buffer, a safety measure: distance has become a device to guarantee separation and segregation. In this context, the following question arises: have territorial mechanisms which prioritize individual identity replaced mechanisms based on collective strategies to share space?

Call for participation

Participation in the OIKODOMOS Workshop is open to all interested architecture and urban planning students. To be eligible, interested students should send the following documents which will be evaluated by an evaluation board:

1. a brief letter of motivation (max 500 words in an A4 page)
2. a CV, including samples of design projects or design research related to housing (max 4 pages size A4)
3. a statement about the proposed topic of the workshop, "Proximity" (a text of max 500 words, in an A4 page, including optionally one image)

All information (in English) should be submitted as a single pdf document to oikodomos@architectuur.sintlucas.wenk.be

Selected participants will receive notification of acceptance by April 15th, 2011 and will not have to pay a registration fee. After attending all activities they will receive a certificate of participation.

Members of the evaluation board are:

Viera Joklova, Faculty of Architecture, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, SLOVAKIA

Leandro Madrazo, Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura La Salle, Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona, SPAIN

Angel Martin Cojo, Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura La Salle, Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona, SPAIN

Tomas Ooms, Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst, Department Architectuur Sint-Lucas, Brussels/Ghent, BELGIUM

Beril Ozmen Mayer, Eastern Mediterranean University, NORTH CYPRUS

Hifsiye Pulhan, Eastern Mediterranean University, NORTH CYPRUS

Paul Riddy, University of Southampton, UNITED KINGDOM

Kris Scheerlinck, Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst, Department Architectuur Sint-Lucas, Brussels/Ghent, BELGIUM/

Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura La Salle, Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona, SPAIN

Stefano Tardini, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, SWITZERLAND

Jan Tucny, Institut d'Urbanisme IUG, Université Pierre Mendès, Grenoble, FRANCE

Johan Verbeke, Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst, Department Architectuur Sint-Lucas, Brussels/Ghent, BELGIUM

More information about:

- the workshop activities, please access www.project-oikodomos.blogspot.com
- the workshop organization, please contact us at oikodomos@architectuur.sintlucas.wenk.be
- the OIKODOMOS project, please contact us at project@oikodomos.org