ATHENS _ City of Architectures
-Urban Growth and the development of Polykatoikia-

.Dimitrios Sotiropoulos.
01_RESEARCH STATEMENT
The research studies the shifting role that the *Polykatoikia* model has played in the *Top-down* decision process and diverse *socio-spatial* transformations in Athens.
The research studies the shifting role that the Polykatoikia model has played in the Top-down decision process and diverse socio-spatial transformations in Athens.

**Polykatoikia**: Multi-story apartment building based on the Dom-ino model of Le Corbusier. This system combined advanced industrial solutions with low-skilled manual labour. It is a hybrid building that housed almost all social classes.
The research studies the shifting role that the Polykatoikia model has played in the Top-down decision process and diverse socio-spatial transformations in Athens.

**Research Statement**

**Terminology**

**Top-down**: Decision process formed through the continuous exchange between the private domain and the state. In terms of urban growth, the former was generating profit by constructing the urban mass while the latter was responsible for providing an abstract regulatory framework to make that possible.
02_HISTORICAL TIMELINE
03_EVOLUTION OF THE URBAN BLOCK
Plan

Axonometric

Law

No restrictions

Street Section

Useful Information

Population: 453,000
Green space: 90%
Pollution: none
Private Transport: Horses
Public Transport: Small caravans, Tram, Train

Economy:
Primary sector: 80%
Secondary sector: 10%
Tertiary sector: 10%
1919-1941

Plan

Axonometric

Law

1919-1934
Penthouse setback = 2.5m
Penthouse height = 4m
1919: Hmax = 1.2 x street width
1922: Hmax = 1.75 x street width
1929: Hmax = 1.165 x street width
Street Section
Max Cover 25%

Useful Information
Population: 1,124,000
Green space: 70%
Pollution: Low
Private Transport: Cars
Public Transport: Train, Train, Bus
Economy: Primary sector 40%
Secondary sector 38%
Tertiary sector 20%
1941-1975

Street Elevation

Axonometric

1934-1973
Penthouse setback = 4m
Penthouse height = 2.5m
1934: H_{max} = (2 \times \text{street width}) = 18m

Law

Max Cover
25%

Street Section
25%

Useful Information

Population: 2,540,000
Green space: 30%
Pollution: High
Private Transport: Cars
Public Transport: Train, Tram, Bus
Economy: Primary sector 15%
Secondary sector 55%
Tertiary sector 30%
1975-1990

Steet Elevation

Axonometric

Law

1973-1985
Penthouse setback = Hmax - Hf
Penthouse heigth = 2.5m

1973: Hmax = (2 x street width) = 24m
1985: Hmax = (2 x street width) = 24m

Street Section

Max Cover

25%

50%

Useful Information

Population: 3,205,000
Green space: 10%
Pollution: Very high
Private Transport: Cars
Public Transport: Train, Bus

Economy: Primary sector: 10%
Secondary sector: 40%
Tertiary sector: 50%
Minimum arcade height = 3.5m
Minimum arcade width = 2.5m
2000: Hmax = (2 x street width) = 24m

Useful Information
Population: 3,750,000
Green space: 3%
Pollution: Very high
Private Transport: Cars
Public Transport: Train, Bus, Metro
Economy: Primary sector: 3%
Secondary sector: 12%
Tertiary sector: 85%
04_CURRENT CONDITION
.Courtyard Conditions.

.Courtyard Voids.
Polykatoikia Section.
Conclusive Statements

1. Urban growth of Athens was determined by the Public-Private opposition
Conclusive Statements

1. Urban growth of Athens was determined by the Public-Private opposition

2. Top down decision processes did not respond to real conditions and needs.
Conclusive Statements

1. Urban growth of Athens was determined by the Public-Private opposition

2. **Top down** decision processes did not respond to real conditions and needs.

3. Polykatoikia became the device to fragment and thus control the population.
Conclusive Statements

1. Urban growth of Athens was determined by the Public-Private opposition

2. **Top down** decision processes did not respond to real conditions and needs.

3. Polykatoikia became the device to fragment and thus control the population.

4. There is a high increase in the levels of abandonment and decay of the city centre.
Conclusive Questions

1. How we can reimagine the form of the city by moving beyond the opposition of public and private and towards a collective realm?
Conclusive Questions

1. How we can reimagine the form of the city by moving beyond the opposition of public and private and towards a collective realm?

2. How we can re-examine the role of the Polykatoikia within this realm?
ATHENS: City of Crossroads
-Towards The Collective Realm of The Labyrinth-

Dimitrios Sotiropoulos.
06_DESIGN STATEMENT
The design visualizes a collective realm that is formed when the street penetrates and enters the building and when the building extents and becomes part of the street.

It suggests a potential network of multilevel passages linking one open space to the other. The promise of such a passage is to create a network of resistance and to promote the users to see themselves as members of different communities which are in the process of emerging.
07_CASE STUDIES
Archizoom | Non Stop City.
Superstudio | Continuous Monument.
Constant | New Babylon.
Conclusive Statements

1. A socially and politically engaged architecture

2. The ideological upcoming effects of capitalist development.

3. Participatory design as the driver of architectural production.

4. Movement within the continuity of social space and unrestricted access.

5. Megaforms as Generic spatial models conceived independently of their intrinsic socio-cultural contexts.
08_ATHENS AS MEGAFORM
Conclusive Statements

1. Homogeneous concrete structure

2. Strict horizontal separation


4. Repetitive and homogeneous floor plans
9. MAS | Movement + Access + Scale
The Stem
Derive

1. Derive is an unplanned journey through the urban landscape

2. The space takes the form of a dynamic multileveled labyrinth

3. The notion of the Groundscraper being the new urban condition of the Athenian Megaform.
The Minotaur and Theseus.
Labyrinth | Architecture of Thinking

1. It is an archetype with timeless association with the Greek culture as a process of **self-alteration**.
Labyrinth | Architecture of Thinking

1. It is an archetype with timeless association with the Greek culture as a process of **self-alteration**.

2. It is ultimately **without end**, despite its many, its ubiquitous, dead-ends.
1. It is an archetype with timeless association with the Greek culture as a process of **self-alteration**.

2. It is ultimately **without end**, despite its many, its ubiquitous, dead-ends.

3. It is **boundless** since the limits that emerge on every turn are of the thinker's own making.
1. It is an archetype with timeless association with the Greek culture as a process of **self-alteration**.

2. It is ultimately **without end**, despite its many, its ubiquitous, dead-ends.

3. It is **boundless** since the limits that emerge on every turn are of the thinker’s own making.

4. It is the device used to achieve a **contemplative state**.
10. ANALOGOUS TOOL
Current Condition.
Current Condition.

Analogous Crossroads.
Fast.

Sectors.

High Speed
Low Speed Pedestrian Coexistence High Speed Automotive Bridges.
Future Crossroads.

Current Crossroads.

Low Speed Pedestrian Coexistence

High Speed Automotive
Analogous Crossroads.

Low Speed
Pedestrian Coexistence
High Speed
Automotive
10. SITUATIONS
Pilotis.
Courtyard.
Storage.