**Thessaloniki arrival city**

**Dyrrhacian Camp**

Approx. 13,000 refugees are currently hosted in temporary camps in Northern Greece. About 1000 of them live in Dyrrhacian Camp, 30 minutes from the city center. The living conditions in the camp, which consists of tents, containers and former warehouses, are not suitable to live in, in the European context. As opposed to cities, camps are planned as informal networks for displaced people, and offer limited possibilities of connecting to the life outside the camp. Camps do not provide long-term integration.

The selection of new potential areas for refugees housing allocation in Thessaloniki is based on availability of services, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location and cultural adequacy.

The city

Referring to the World refugee council existing others, Oliver, are very effective at absorbing polyclastics on the move, seen when by finding new homes in the first wave of migrants that reach the port of Thessaloniki. However, the local council of Thessaloniki has been slow to provide citizens with a feasible role in protecting, assisting and promoting solutions for displaced people. The accommodation system in Thessaloniki does not have more apartments to offer. The result is that the new arrivals are not able to move out of the camps and relocation to a camp, creating a huge social issue for the city.

Long-term integration

While the livelihood opportunities in the camps are not sufficient, the city center of Thessaloniki represents huge potential for integration, benefiting both refugees and newcomers. The project is located in the thirteenth part of the city center where the new arrivals should be housed. The area is inside the former city walls, empty buildings and unused areas as potential to search for new solutions.

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The former city wall

The center of Thessaloniki was surrounded by a city wall, with churches and monasteries within, back to the age of the Roman Empire. The majority of the city was destroyed in the great fire in 1917. After the fire, 70,000 people became homeless and 75% of the population were unemployed. The French architect Ernest Hébrard designed the new city plan, removing the medieval and Oriental features of Thessaloniki, preserving its Byzantine heritage and transformed it into a city with boulevards, squares and parks. The plan was finished in 1948, but was not implemented fully due to pressure from influential landowners.

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1925 migration route

In 1925 the Asia Minor Catastrophe took place. Approx. 1.5 million people refugees left from Greece, Russia, Australia and the United States, 150,000 people sorted in Thessaloniki.

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2004 migration route

Approx. 1.5 million people have arrived in Greece by sea from 2016-2017. The displaced people arrive from Istanbul, then, go by train or bus, and some are moving further to Thessaloniki in the northern part of Greece.

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2016-2018 migration route

Approx. 1.5 million people have arrived in Greece by sea from 2016-2018. The displaced people arrive from Istanbul, then, go by train or bus, and some are moving further to Thessaloniki in the northern part of Greece.
Housing the masses - architecture of migration

The city's history has a variety of housing masses of new women, mostly due to the poor location of the Central Macedonia Region. The migration history of Thessaloniki has a large impact on the development of the city until today. In 1932, the Akas Marea Quarter, the largest of the new buildings, was completed. The blocks were designed to have an open space in the middle, creating a large open space. This was one of the first examples of the open-lot concept, known in the United States as the American style.

Both the period after the Munich Axis and the Second World War were characterized by the attitude that the city could find a solution to the housing problem. The solution was to build a mass of similar buildings, designated to be used for various purposes. The idea of these buildings was not only to solve the housing problem, but also to control the migration.
In the western part of the city center there is a multicultural neighborhood called Xirokrini. The blocks of the area mostly consist of the polistelida type polyclad, except from a few old brick houses and the public buildings. The multicultural neighborhood Xirokrini includes several different cultural communities. The neighborhood was established by migrants in the 80s and 90s. Since the area is located outside the former city wall, it has experienced slower development.

However, today Xirokrini is one of the Municipalities focus areas in terms of upgrading. The population is a mix of citizens and new arrivals, who are either renting apartments or staying in the vacant buildings. These buildings are intended for upgrading in Xirokrini, and the population consists of both families, elderly, single and students.

Challenges and potentials

The railway and bus station located next to Xirokrini is the arrival point and the gateway to the city. The neighborhood is well established, containing schools, kindergartens, an active church and well-working infrastructure. One large challenge for the neighborhood is the vacant buildings and the empty ground floors due to the economic crisis. This has led to unsafe streets during night time, forcing people to stay at home in their private dwellings instead of socializing. The absent life on the street level has a large potential for improvement in terms of work and livelihood opportunities, and the neighborhood also has a large physical potential for population growth.

Urban integration

Re-integrating and urban integrating of the 1000 displaced people living in the Diavata camp will increase the population of Xirokrini by 10-15%. In addition, it will require new public, private and shared spaces that will both benefit the host community and the newcomers.

Analysis

There is a large potential in the vacant buildings, the empty ground floors and the unused spaces in the city. How can this be transformed architecturally into common structures for both current and potential citizens?
The groundfloor

Challenges
Dead space, large concrete surfaces and balconies are consequences of the unplanned development in the 20th century. The ground floor facades are partially closed facing the courtyard. The streets also suffer from closed facades due to high first level dwellings and vacant commercial spaces.

Potential
The mixed live and work model of the polytikias corresponds to a modern way of planning cities, where the same areas are used for living and working. Due to this model, the ground floor spaces have a 5.7 meter ceiling height that make transformations of the spaces possible. Despite the dead spaces in the courtyards, these in-between spaces are required in every block, and provides light and air to the dense structure.

Density
Challenges
The polytikias are often blamed for all the social issues related to living in the city: high population density, risk of crime, and commercial degradation. The lack of public space, the distance with neighbors over the rules of communal living, the thin walls and even the alienation from one another.

Potential
On the other hand, the dense way of living in the polytikias can be characterized by its ability to adapt to mixed programs such as residential, offices, medical practices, grocery stores, clinics, and art galleries among others.

Appendix 6

The aesthetics
Challenges
The cityscape of Thesaloniki is characterized by the cement apron with large construction dimensions, like the 500 cm thick columns and massive cores. The street facades are regulated in height and the presence of balconies, in a messy entire, because of the individual planned buildings.

Potential
On the other hand the facades reflect parts of the private life of the inhabitants into the public. This could be laundry, plants and other belongings exposed on the balconies. The overabundance of vertical vegetation in some neighborhoods provides a tropical vibe to the streets. The massive concrete construction might be seen as open and static spaces with a large potential of re-thinking of the structure.

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Vacancy
Challenges
In many cases the polytikia are suffering from significant decay, because of the vacant building mass. Large scale office buildings as much as smaller scale residential polytikias are not in use, but the most common empty spaces are the ground floors, due to the economic crisis. This results in inacuity and poor livelihood opportunities in parts of the city.

Potential
In the context of new arrivals, the masses of empty spaces in the city has a huge potential, new program and accommodation facilities for current and potential citizens has the physical potential to be explored.

Appendix 6
Expiration date polykatoikia construction: 2030

Response: support structure

The lifespan of a polykatoikia structure built in the 60s is calculated to be around 70 years. A well-known renovation strategy in Thessaloniki is to physically separate the structure from the foundation, thus reducing the load on the concrete beams of the polykatoikia buildings, because of the decaying structure. The concrete quality is not of today's standards, both in terms of the reinforcement and the size of the cross section of the beams.

The response of the project is divided into a horizontal and a vertical support system. The horizontal system is based on steel columns connected to the building's cross-section with additional concrete to increase the stiffness of the cross section of the columns. The vertical support system increases the stability of the structure by adding an additional core placed outside the building.
Ground floor dwellings: 80m², 85m², 110m²
3-5 people

Ground floor plan 1:75
Polykatoikia support structure

One goal is to secure long-term integration by accommodating new arrivals. On the level of the private unit, individual apartments are supplemented by a space exposed to the street, serving the neighborhood. The program brings the city into the buildings and makes the inhabitants a genuine part of the neighborhood.

On the level of the apartment building, the vertical support structure functions as new collective space shared by the existing inhabitants in the building and the new arrivals living in the Live + work ground floor units. The roof top includes a private one floor-dwelling next to the common rooftop space. The vertical collective structure counteracts the existing vertical segregation, which is based on various levels of accessibility to the wealthiest people, living in the upper floors.

On the level of the neighborhood, the mini community houses benefits the current tenants and new arrivals by fostering social entrepreneurship, work spaces, information, a first arrival point, distribution of work and housing and a collective neighborhood space. This improves the livelihood opportunities in Xirokrini.

In Greece you have the right to work even before the application of asylum is accepted. Hence, lower barriers to labour market participation should be a goal. Including an exposed work space in the living units ensures a close connection between private living and supporting the neighborhood with products or services.

To succeed in this, a common platform can be established for property owners and the Municipality. The property owners and the new arrivals can agree on a leasing contract, while the role of the Government / ECHO should be to secure future income to the property owners. The new arrivals will slowly pay back the total value, and over time they will become owners of their own apartment. This active system may encourage work motivation and long term integration. It is hard to sell and rent out apartments in Thessaloniki. Hence, this can be a long-term solution that also will benefit the property owners.

Collective rooftop space

Large outdoor living space. Could include a large kitchen and a herb garden.

Recreable activity

Viewpoint

Yoga

Language class

Green levels

Youth space

Additional steel core, stair and elevator

Additional entrance to the existing dwellings

Collective vertical structure

Collective vertically, spaces shared by current and new inhabitants in the building and counteract the existing vertical segregation in the poly-katoikia.

Live private space

Private dwellings on the ground floor to secure life at the street level throughout the day. Entrance to the dwellings from the open courtyard. Design for privacy thought the section. The highest grade of privacy is in the center of the dwelling and at the gallery.

Work exposed space

Connected to and served by the ground floor dwelling. Other services to the neighborhood and main work accessible to the new inhabitants.

Public street

Pedestrian space

Courtyard consisting of open green spots in the urban grid. Additional vertical open space connecting community and the ground floor dwellings and the vertical structures.