

On-board

A workshop that will take place on the route from Marseille to Athens becomes the occasion of a conversation in the city of Athens on the redefinition of architecture today

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Main Production: Goethe-Institut Athen

80 years after the Athens Charter (Charte d'Athènes)

a group of architects, artists, and theoreticians, will meet and work during a travel from Marseille to Athens, inspired by the 4th CIAMs architectural conference that took place on board the S.S. Patris, an ocean-going liner journeying from Marseilles to Athens in July 1933. The workshop will lead to a symposium and presentation in the city of Athens, on the subject of the redefinition of architecture today.



Architects 'Congress 1933, Lazlo Moholy Nagy

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project focuses on the 80 years anniversary of the Athens Charter, a document about urban planning produced during the 4th International Congress of Modern Architecture (CIAM) in 1933, which due to the political situation took place on the SS Patris, an ocean-going linear journeying from Marseille to Athens. On the subject of "Functional City" well known international architects such as Le Corbusier and Lazlo Moholy Nagy from 33 countries took part in a discussion on architecture and urban planning. The Athens Charter had a huge impact on planning thought after World War 2.

Today, 80 years later, and while the global economical crisis is happening, Greece is again in the centre of attention and the city of Athens goes under a big urban transformation affected by the economical and political situation, that many journalists, theoreticians, architects try to record and understand. Under these circumstances **the On-board project focuses ones more in the city of Athens and seeks to create a new route from Marseille to Athens, with the aim of transporting new ideas and material about the contemporary role of architecture.**

This idea will be realized in two parts during the summer 2013. The first part will be **a workshop on the route from Marseille to Athens**, where a group of architects, artists and theoreticians from different countries will work and share ideas. **Meeting in Marseille, the group will firstly engage with groups in the city and start a discussion and exchange of ideas on the redefinition of architecture today. After this meeting the group will embark on ferry and start the travel.** The second part consists of **a symposium that will be organized in the city of Athens on the occasion of the travel and the 80years Athens Charter anniversary.** In this symposium the group will connect to other groups in Athens and international lecturers invited, in order to present the ideas discussed during the travel and create a wider workshop including the audience and the spaces of the city.

The subject of the on-board workshop and symposium will focus on the nowadays redefinition of the Athens Charter under the new conditions and urban changes taking place in Athens and other cities affected by the economical crisis worldwide.

THE TWO PARTS OF THE PROJECT:

THE WORKSHOP ON THE ROUTE AND THE SYMPOSIUM IN ATHENS

1) THE WORKSHOP ON THE ROUTE FROM MARSEILLE TO ATHENS

The workshop will start in the city of Marseille with a first discussion and exchange of ideas that will take place in the city in the beginning of July. The group then will embark on a ferry starting the travel from Marseille to Bastia, Livorno, Ancona, Patra and finally Athens. In the duration of a 4 days' workshop a group will work on the subject of the redefinition of architecture today. A film documentation of the workshop will be created and edited during the time of the trip.

THE ROUTE



2) THE PRESENTATION AND THE SYMPOSIUM IN ATHENS

At the end of the travel and after the participants of the workshop will reach the city of Athens, a symposium will take place in the Athen Goethe-Institut. In the occasion of the presentation of the travel, invited participants from the field of architecture, art, social science, will create a conversation open to the public on the subject of the redefinition of architecture today. Possible actions, events, and participatory projects could take place during the symposium.

ATHENS, A CITY IN TRANSITION

The urban transformation of Athens during the last years reveals the country's (and further more Europe's) political and economical situation of nowadays crisis and makes the city of Athens an interesting field to analyze in order to talk about how architecture could be redefined today. Just like the Athens Charter pointed out subjects to be analyzed and conclusions in order to "heal " the cities from the situation they have been due to industrialization, Athens' transformation gives new material for observation and research.

On the occasion of the workshop that will take place in the travel from Marseille to Athens, a symposium will be organized in the city of Athens with people invited from the fields of social science, architecture, art. The presentation of the New Athens Charter and the ideas created during the travel will be the beginning of a conversation around the cities in crisis and their urban transformation, new forms of architecture and artistic strategies that take place nowadays and which form new ways and ideas of how architecture is redefined today.

SCHEDULE

Beginning of July 2013

MEETING OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN MARSEILLE (2 days)

The beginning of the workshop will take place in the city of Marseille in connection to other groups that work on the field of architecture and art in public space.

TRAVEL FROM MARSEILLE TO ATHENS

Workshop during the travel (4 days)

PRESENTATION AND SYMPOSIUM IN ATHENS (2 days)

In the occasion of the travel for the 80 years anniversary, invited participants from the field of architecture, art, social science, will create a conversation open to the public on the subject of the redefinition of architecture today.

Sofia Dona, December 2012

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