

Welcome Speeches

Dimitris Antonakakis

Architect, Greece, Art Director of the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture

Distinguished fellow citizens, dearest friends and participants,

It's been five years since your first meeting in 1998 when you honored us by trusting the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture (CMA), which was then in its infancy, to host you in Hania. On recalling the public lecture delivered then by the keynote speaker, Prof. Salvestrini, I feel deeply moved. I remember communicating with him after the lecture to further discuss some ideas that had surfaced at the meeting and asked him to deal with the dynamic relationship that a school of architecture could create with the city that hosts it. More specifically, what we were implying or expressing at the time was the hope of establishing a school of architecture here in Hania within the existing Polytechnic. Ever since and every year over the last five years, the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE) and particularly Constatin Spiridonidis and Maria Voyatzaki, both Assistant Professors in the Architecture Department of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, have repeatedly pointed out the logic of such a proposition during the entire course of their encounters with the mass media. It's precisely in this spirit that we continue to approach them here, through this meeting, in accordance with the Academia of the local Polytechnic, which has always supported your meetings in many different ways, relentlessly expressing the demand for a school of architecture for the city of Hania.

This time, dear friends, I'm delighted to be the messenger of an official announcement from the Ministry of Education that at last the mature or long-lived demand of the city and Polytechnic of Crete has been approved and realized. Therefore, from next year on this city will have its own school of architecture.

As you probably already know, there are five schools of architecture in Greece with more than 3,200 students. We hope that this new school will not increase the number of students to the detriment of quality, but rather will contribute to a more efficient distribution of students in the country. Moreover, it is our hope that this new school will find ways of organizing itself with flexibility and method so as to become a distinguished educational core among the other five existing schools in Greece, as well as being a resourceful reference centre, which will complete the cycle of interests in the domain of architectural studies. We also hope that this new school will reflect and incorporate the experience of the long debates that luckily emerged in your Hania meetings so as to orient itself in the right direction and in tune with contemporary trends at both the European and international level, delving in issues that will have permanent and valid influence as well as offering a fresh view to scientific questions.

Furthermore, we expect that the new school of architecture will soon become a branch dynamically embedded in the broader Polytechnic of Crete and that it will honor it by expanding or spreading its roots in the city that embraces it, while investigating questions of public space, distinguishing and designing its monuments, projecting its new architecture in collaboration with local authorities, the Council of Architects of Hania, the Technical

Chamber of Western Crete and, finally, the citizens, whose persistence and support we can attribute, to some extent, the government decision of establishing the sixth school of architecture in this city.

Evidently, at the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture we feel particularly touched by this decision, not only because the CMA has assisted from its initial phase in promoting the demand for a new school of architecture for this city, but also because we have always sought continuing and productive cooperation with the new school for the purpose of improving the quality of the environment in Crete from a sustainable ecological perspective that could permeate all aspects of technology and design. At the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture, we are as open and prepared as ever to help in the right direction as we follow the development of the new school with great interest.

It's now, dear friends, high time that the Polytechnic of Crete confronted all the essential issues naturally encountered in the course of establishing and operating a new school. It's essential that this new school acquire its dynamism by associating itself not only with other schools in Greece, but with other schools of architecture in Europe and the rest of the world. We believe that through the experience gained from your systematic debates at such meetings in Hania, the new school will define its identity, find its niche in the extended architectural family and contribute substantially to overall development. Finally, I would like to welcome you all to Hania and wish you a productive and fruitful meeting as well as a pleasant stay. Thank you very much.

Constantin Spiridonidis

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, EAAE/ENHSA Project Coordinator

Honorable Mayor of the City of Hania, Vice-Rector of the Polytechnic of Crete,
Distinguished citizens, dear colleagues and friends,

It seems difficult to innovatively welcome you for the sixth time to this magnificent city as I stand here overwhelmed with feelings, touched by your presence and considering the tremendous effort after so many years of organizing this event. It's moving to consider all the positive contribution on your part toward the debates that we have organised and developed in this city.

Dimitris Antonakakis mentioned that this meeting has a past or history, which means that it has grown and gradually matured. In the process, we have become more effective at exchanging and communicating through our debates in the framework of such meetings. It's worth mentioning that at this event, 110 participants from all European countries will contribute their ideas, views and aspects as well as make their proposals regarding architectural education. In addition, 85 different schools of architecture are represented in this event. This is the highest number of participants and schools that we've ever had gathered here and, certainly, a sign that this collaboration is well established and that it will have a very interesting future. This event has put the City of Hania on the map as the city of architectural education; therefore, I find it extremely fitting that a new school of architecture is soon to be "born" in this city. I'm sure that all of us are expecting this new "child" of architectural institutions to be running in the very near future.

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you again and thank the city of Hania for their generous hospitality, particularly the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture, which is our host and co-organiser, collaborating and supporting us in numerous ways, not only intellectually and emotionally, but financially as well. Of course, I would like to thank all the staff of the Centre for the untiring collaboration, support and assistance they offered throughout the organisation of this event. Finally, I wish you all a pleasant stay and a fruitful meeting.

Kyriakos Virvidakis

The Mayor of the City of Hania, Greece

Distinguished guests, Mr. Chairman, Deans of the various schools of Europe, Members of this Conference,

I welcome you all to our city and wish you a pleasant stay. I would also like to extend a special welcome to tonight's guest speaker, the distinguished Prof. John Habraken.

The purpose of this meeting, which is to coordinate architectural education in the various schools of Europe, is indeed a very important and complex matter. Therefore,

I would like to wish you the very best. Last, but not least, I know that our city council along with the CMA have been very instrumental towards the development of an architectural school in Hania. Tonight, as Mayor of this City, I would like to thank all concerned for their efforts. Moreover, I'm very pleased to announce that Hania will have a school of architecture in the fall of 2004. I hope both as Mayor and Assistant Professor of Medicine that the Polytechnic School of Hania will soon also have a school of biomedical technology. This has been requested for many years and I sincerely hope that by the time this meeting confers in two years' time, this particular request will have been granted. Nevertheless, I'm certain that we can count on your assistance to ensure that our new architectural school will become a great one.

Once again, I welcome you and may you have an interesting and productive meeting.

I regret to say that I will not be able to attend the rest of tonight's programme since there is a city council meeting now in session that I'm expected to attend. Thank you.

Prof. Joakim Grispolakis

The Vice - Rector of the Technical University of Crete

As rector of the Technical University of Crete, I would like to welcome you to Hania. This year marks a special occasion for us since our Technical University, after almost seventeen years of continuous effort has finally acquired its own school of architecture as well as a school of fine arts. As you can appreciate, this has been a long-standing dream. In fact, I remember sharing with you over the years our dreams and aspirations at your conferences. Now, we can finally say that this dream is a reality! The main target of the

school of architecture, which will hopefully be opening its door by the fall of 2004, is the restoration of buildings. We feel that the City of Hania and the entire region are worthy of this orientation. Also, with reference to what the Mayor mentioned earlier regarding a school of biomedical technology within the Polytechnic of Hania, it is our hope that our efforts in this direction will soon be rewarded, so that within the next few years, one more dream will be actualized.

Finally, I would like to welcome you once again to our city and wish you a creative and constructive workshop.

Prof. Herman Neuckermans

Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

President of the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE)

Good evening! It's my pleasure to welcome you all to our meeting. I would like to extend a special welcome to the Mayor and Rector of the Technical University of Hania.

As you all probably know, this is not the first time we are gathered here. These meetings have been held for many years, originally starting as an EAAE event and for the last two years they have been sponsored by the European Union in the framework of ENHSA, a Socrates Thematic Network. I know that there are more participants here than the members we have in the EAAE, so I would like to invite and encourage those who are interested in getting to know us better, in terms of who and what we are and how we proceed, to attend our General Assembly on Friday morning to be held at 9:45, here. In brief, the EAAE is a non-profit organization founded in 1975 in Belgium and is committed to promoting quality education and research in architecture.

I would certainly like to thank all the officials who with their presence were willing to honour our meeting as well as extend a special thanks to Dimitris Antonakakis for his intellectual as well as physical help in hosting us here.

I wish you all a good stay and may you enjoy the conference!

Prof. Zoe Karamanou

Head of School of Architecture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

All the Meetings of Heads of European Schools of Architecture have always been held under the auspices of the School of Architecture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Our School supports this organisation and regularly participates not only through its President and Vice-President, but through the distinguished members that have contributed to the foundation and continuation of this academic event. These include the Curriculum Coordinator of our School, along with the members very actively involved in the coordination of the Socrates Thematic Network on Architectural Education as well as in the administration of the European Association for Architectural Education. Furthermore, the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture, the Arts Director and Mayor of Hania have

all contributed to providing us with the venue. I think that it is indeed fortunate that this event takes place in Hania, with a great deal of interest, especially at this time with the announcement of the founding of a new school of architecture.

As President of the School of Architecture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, I have a vested interest in the successful outcome of this meeting and wish to assure you of our continuing support and assistance in all future endeavors. Thank you.

