

Welcome Speeches

Aris Papadoyanakis

Vice-Mayor of Hania, President of the Center for Mediterranean Architecture, Hania

Honorable Rector of the Technical University of Crete,
Mr. President of the Technical Chamber of Greece and Western Crete,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mayor and City Council, as well as the Council of the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture, I welcome you to our beautiful city of Hania and this magnificent building, which is a typical example of local architecture and cultural heritage. The Meeting this year takes on a whole new dimension extending beyond the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture, which is already well-known, to encompass the opening of the new School of Architecture of the Technical University of Crete, which will open its doors to students from this academic year on. The 7th Meeting of Heads of European Schools of Architecture, along with your presence in this event, is a very big honor for this City and for the CMA. This event coincides with the recent developments in the European Union policies regarding architecture, the European Framework in Architectural Education and the European Framework of Higher Education. The work of this Meeting will be followed with great interest and it is our wish that the outcome will be constructive and fruitful. Finally, we wish to assure you in advance that the friendly City of Hania will be very pleased to host next year's meeting as well. Thank you very much.

Dimitris Andonakakis

Art Director of the Center for Mediterranean Architecture, Hania

Dear Friends,

I am particularly pleased to welcome you, on behalf of the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture, to Hania for the 7th time. This is not only because over the years most of you have cultivated strong bonds of friendship, but I also feel that the work you have generated throughout the years is bearing its first fruit regarding what you have achieved in the domain of architectural education, as well as regarding the influence and the impact that your Meetings have had on our City, which have ultimately led to the establishment of the new School of Architecture of the Technical University of Crete that will welcome its first students in a few days.

I would like to thank you deeply, particularly Constantin Spiridonidis for his contribution. Another reason, however, that I am particularly happy tonight is the reunion with an old friend and the potential that this occasion presents for creating new friendships. I am

delighted to have with us, Stanford Anderson with whom I had the honour of collaborating for several years at MIT. I am equally delighted that Kas Oosterhuis from Delft School of Architecture is also with us and, in this way, expressing a gesture of prospective collaboration. Thank you Stanford and Kas for accepting our invitation to warm-up the debates that are to come on this 7th Meeting. Welcome both to Hania!

Last, but not least, I would like to express my delight for the ongoing and fruitful collaboration with the European Association for Architectural Education and the continuous and generous support of the European Commission through the Socrates Thematic Network Programs.

Many thanks also go to the Technical Chamber of Greece for its financial support, the Union of Mayors of the Region of Hania and the Twenty-five For aid of Pre-historic and Classical Antiquities for their collaboration, which enabled us to offer you tomorrow's concert by the famous New Hellenic Quartet and the Mezzo Soprano, Mary Ellen Nezi in the superb ambiance of the ancient Apta. I would like to thank all of you for these happenings in the City of Hania and I wish you all a fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay.

Constantin Spiridonidis

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Architecture, EAAE/ENHSA Thematic Network Coordinator

I would like to express a warm welcome to you, not as much as colleagues, but rather as friends. Yesterday evening, on discussing with Kas Oosterhuis about the way people feel about each other here, he made the comment that "this is not a conference, but a kind of reunion" because after so many years, we have not only achieved a number of things that are very significant from the viewpoint of our professional practices and experiences related to architectural education, but achieved something which is far more valuable: a good spirit of friendship and a profound ability to collaborate, exchange ideas and work as a team for the future of architectural education in Europe. These positive feelings are the motivation for our efforts in the framework of the European Association for Architectural Education. Sometimes, I think that this attitude can be seen as a kind of professional aberration, yet, in the end, this will for collaboration and group work in a common objective is something far more human and essential for the benefit of our professional practices.

Maria and I, who have worked closely at the organizational level for this event, would like to thank the Council of the EAAE for continuing to trust us in the task of organizing and for the support that we have received from them in the framework of this organization. I would like to thank as well the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture, particularly the Artistic Director, Dimitris Antonakakis, with whom we have had an excellent collaboration throughout the seven years due to chemistry or compatibility of characters, perhaps, although such cooperation is best appreciated rather than rationalized. I would also like to thank the Vice-Mayor of the City, who is also the President of CMA. It is worth mentioning that we have had the opportunity of working with many Presidents of CMA

and we have had an excellent experience of friendship, cooperation and fruitful exchange with all of them.

It is also fitting to thank the Administration of the Socrates Thematic Network that during the last three years has been the close supporters of our efforts in terms of the Association, which has created a new incentive and force, giving us the possibility to act and develop new activities under the auspices of the European Union. In addition, I want to thank all of you: the old colleagues who return year after year to this City, some for the 7th time, which is very encouraging. I would also like to thank the new participants who are ready to offer their collaboration and a new perspective for the future. I wish you a pleasant stay and, in terms of our debates related to this Meeting, may your participation be lively and productive, in a spirit of collaboration.

James Horan

President of the European Association for Architectural Education

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 7th Meeting in Hania. There is something specific about number 7. It seems to occur in mythology, in magic, in all sorts of stories and histories. Constantin mentioned earlier that there is perhaps a special chemistry between the Architectural Association and the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture. There is no doubt about the fact that there is, but I would go further, perhaps, and say that it is not just chemistry, but alchemy and there is a possibility that now we might make something of real value out of this alchemic connection. Because it is our 7th Meeting, here, I also believe that we have reached a level of maturity that has resulted from these meetings and I have great expectations for what this 7th Meeting will produce. I would also like to join Constantin in the thanks he has offered to the City of Hania and to the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture, as well as to the Socrates Thematic Network for the support we have especially received over the last three years. This has made it possible and you are the people who will take it forward. I wish you and us a very successful meeting for now and into the future.

Prof. Yannis A. Phillis

Rector of the Technical University of Crete

Honorable Vice-Mayor,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening! As you have probably noticed from my attire, I am not an architect, as I am wearing a tie. I also don't know anything about chemistry and alchemy, so that is a second feature of mine. Architecture, though, is the essence of it all: we have architecture of buildings, architecture of landscape, architecture of computers and machines and

even the architecture of logic. In fact, my latest paper was on inference, engine architecture, if that means anything to you. We have architecture in politics, when referring to a politician as the architect behind a certain code or legislation. We have architecture in the Olympics, as is the case when referring to the architect behind the successful Olympics to be so and so. Therefore I would say that you are fortunate to belong to a discipline that fuses together science, metaphor, imagery and above all art, and it is for this reason that I feel a tinge of jealousy, although, I remember once telling an architect that I was glad I never became one.

Obviously, I was either consciously or subconsciously trying to defend my own scientific turf, with a little intrusion of "anthropia" (humanity or compassion) and a little disorder. But then, what would life be without a little humanity? It would be nothing! After all, we cannot go around marching like soldiers. We need some freedom and compassion. Then again, what would science be without humanity? Again, nothing! So, I decided that we needed a School of Architecture in our Technical University, not just the hard sciences, and we are finally opening just such a school. My colleagues and I have worked hard in this direction and, in October, we will be starting classes with all the hurdles, naturally, of Greek bureaucracy and ministry, but that is another matter. We think that this School must put a lot of emphasis on connecting the University with the local society. It should be well-grounded in Greek and European tradition, with a view to the future.

Naturally, being among architects, I have no choice but to speak metaphorically! This city has tremendous potential in architecture and it is a city blessed with many architects, some of whom are extremely good. So, this is a school befitting the local reality, which I am very pleased about. The curriculum of the new School will be oriented towards restoration of buildings and monuments with directives respecting the environment, be it natural or man-made. Moreover, like all schools, it will have its own dynamics according to the people it draws, as you are all aware. At any rate, I am very glad to be here and besides the usual things we normally do at conferences, I do wish you will allow some time to enjoy the city, the beaches, which we have plenty of, and the local "tavernas" (restaurants). May you all have a pleasant stay and enjoy the Meeting!

Zoe Karamanou

Head of the School of Architecture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we have already heard from the Vice-Mayor and the Rector of the University of Crete, this annual event for the 7th consecutive year, our Meeting in Hania around the first weekend of September, has now become an "institution", not strictly for ourselves and for our School, but for Hania, its municipality, its University and especially the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture. As Constantin has already declared, the School of Architecture of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has under its auspices and supports this organization because we were persuaded of its success and cause since the onset. Representing our School of Architecture, I welcome you all, especially our dear guests, Kas and Stanford, for your and their participation and, although I have no doubts about

the success of this Meeting, I extend my best wishes and I am certain that our sessions will attempt to direct our discussions and suggestions toward a constructive and creative conclusion. Good luck!

Antonis Piperidakis

President of the Technical Chamber of Greece and branch of Western Crete

Dear Vice-Mayor of the City of Hania and President of the Center for Mediterranean Architecture,
Dear Rector of the Technical University of Crete,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Council of the Technical Chamber of Greece and its Western Cretan Branch and its President, Mr. Yannis Alavanos, as well as on behalf of the Technical University of Crete, I would like to welcome you to the 7th Meeting of Heads of European Schools of Architecture. I would also like to welcome, whole-heartedly, the participants of this Meeting to our city, which we are very proud of. It is indeed a fitting occasion that Hania host this event because of its monuments, its rich architectural tradition and its Centre for Mediterranean Architecture which has a wide range of activities related to architecture in the area. The function of the CMA has been one of seriously contributing to the production of quality architecture, the organization of architectural events and activities, as well as making interventions that solidify and mobilize the community of local architects on the whole. Its existence has far greater significance and meaning when considering that its activities take place mainly in the Greek periphery, contradicting the widely-held belief that the major centers merit the attention of being sole producers. We are also very happy and proud to now have a School of Architecture in this city at the Technical University of Crete, and it is a pleasant coincidence that the opening of the school coincides with this Meeting. We believe that this Meeting will have a strong contribution to the newly-found School of Architecture as it will surely bring the School face to face with the environment actually existing in the European Union, which will in turn contribute to the School forming a significant cultural pole in the area, whose impact will be to ameliorate the aesthetic dimension of the city's architecture and better quality architectural services offered by the local architects. Consequently, the Technical Chamber of Greece could not stay away from this event organized by the Mediterranean Center of Architecture and the European Association for Architectural Education under the auspices of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the European Union. Moreover, this Meeting has as main theme and focal point the structure of the curriculum of architectural studies, which is, of course, one of the more significant aspects of higher architectural education. Therefore, we consider very significant this effort to coordinate and create a spirit of collaboration between schools of architecture in order to take steps toward developing a new curriculum. Of course, this effort should take place in a way that will protect local cultures and identities and the richness of European cultures and architectural practices.

The work that you have already done in the framework of these meetings and, more specifically, in the Hania Statement that you produced in the framework of this event is a kind of guarantee that architectural education will be protected from the negative influences derived from the interests and profits of the marketplace, which consequently threatens the autonomy of education and the qualitative academic aspect of architectural education. Bearing all these thoughts in mind, I would like once more to welcome you and wish you a fruitful collaboration in the framework of this event.