

# ATHENS COAST

## *The new Aegean*

Columbia GSAPP Spring 2018  
Advanced Studio VI  
Syllabus

**Point Supreme**

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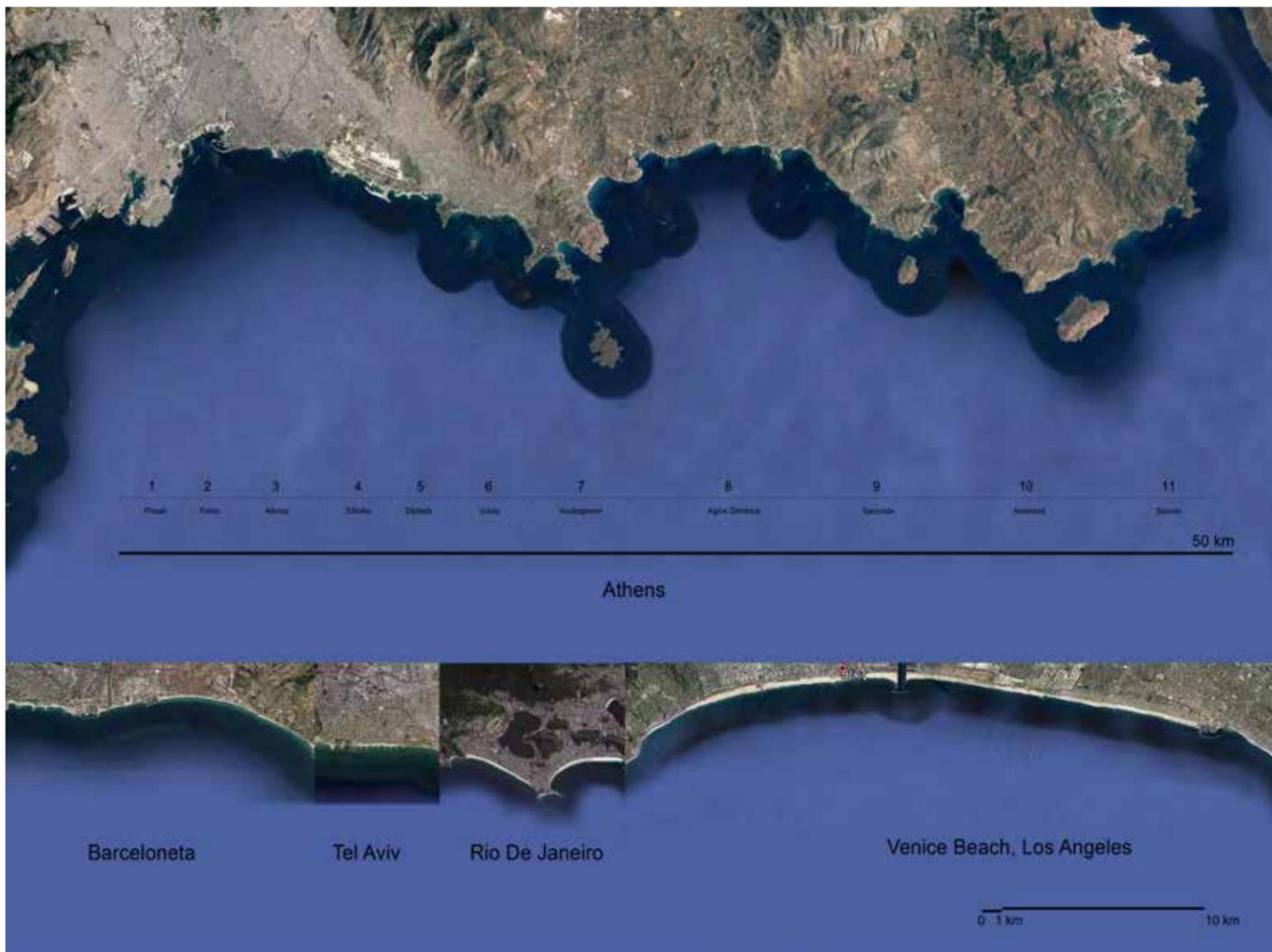
Athens coast

## 1. TOPIC

Athens is a coastal city: at 112 km, its southern coast alone is one of the longest in the world and the only one in a European capital city that has the qualities of a Riviera. Its natural beauty combined with ideal climate conditions are unparalleled; the Greek spirit of Democracy was created here largely because of these. Nevertheless the coastline of Athens has been largely unexploited and underestimated, overlooked because of its proximity to the Aegean islands; it is essentially unknown to both Athenians and visitors.

Things are changing fast in Athens; the recent economic crisis is fading and tourism rises steadily every year, changing the status of Athens from a necessary stop before hoping to the islands, to a city–destination in itself. Athens is the new Berlin and the center ranks in the top places of desired Airbnb destinations.

The coast has tremendous potential for development & revenue. The metro line is getting extended towards it, the Athens Opera and new National Library recently moved there, while ‘Elliniko’, the former airport site will be developed into the biggest park in Europe. The coast is the next big thing.



Scale comparison

## 2. STUDIO OBJECTIVE

The coast of Athens has never been studied as a whole and there has been no proposal or vision for it. This is no coincidence bearing in mind the complexity and scale of the issue. This is also why it is largely unknown even to the most enthusiastic citizens. How can 112 km of coastline be made comprehensible? How can it be communicated, explained, represented? And what can the coast become in the future? What would be an idealized version of it, how can it be improved, enriched, celebrated?

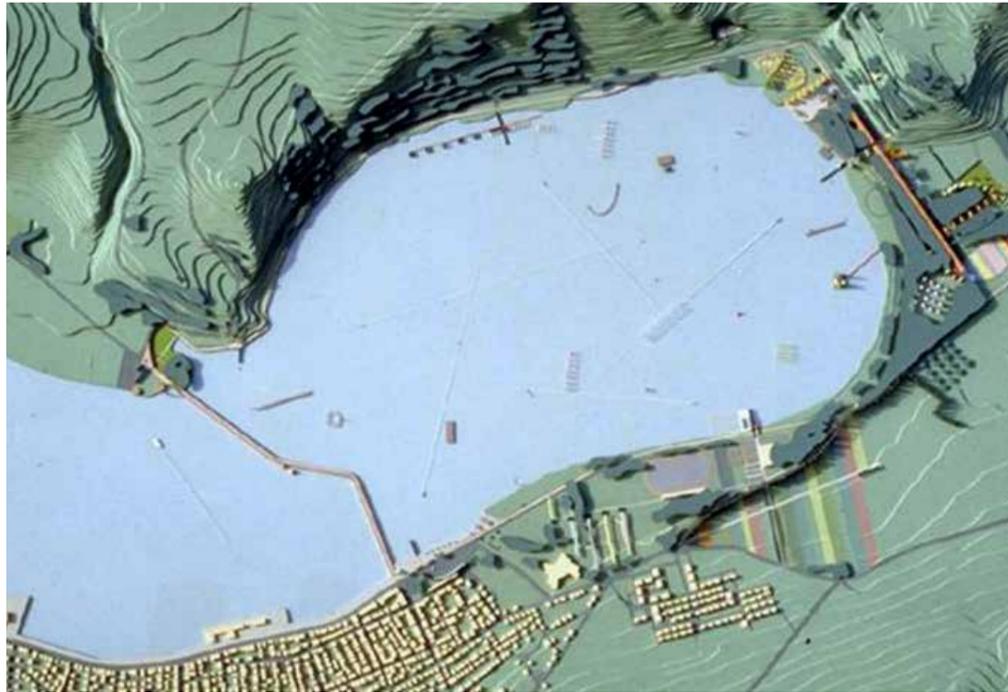
This studio believes that understanding, communicating and creating visions for the coast will radically transform the identity and experience of the city as a whole. The work will include research, inventive mapping, popular representation, branding and projects for the coast of Athens that will address its citizens and visitors.



Copacabana, Burle Marx, Rio De Janeiro

### 3. RESEARCH

Significant urban coastlines from all over the world will be compared in terms of size, number of beaches, programs, development & identity. Also, the history of growth of the Athens coast will be studied, looking both into the classical era and the construction boom of the 60's that radically transformed the city. The research will include collecting artefacts such as old postcards & maps and information from relevant mythologies; for example, Themistocles was born in Anavissos. Goddess Athena Promachos's statue on the Acropolis was visible to sailors at cape Sounion. Sounio temple, temple of Hephaestus and temple of Afaia on Aegina form an isosceles triangle.



Koutavos Bay, Argostoli, Greece, project by Elia Zenghelis/OMA

#### 4. REFERENCES

Each student will analyze two coastline projects. They will redraw its plans and make new images for it. In parallel they will collect a personal atlas of images loosely related to the theme of coast from the fields of architecture, urbanism, photography, art, painting, illustration, texts, movies. Examples of references are:

##### Urbanism

Neutelings W.J.- De Ringcultuur  
 Burle Marx- Copacabana  
 Kenzo Tange- Plan for Tokyo  
 Mendes da Rocha- Montevideo plan  
 Various- Place Mazas Paris Riverfront competition  
 NP2F- Reinventer la Seine  
 West 8- Governors Island Park  
 West 8- Toronto Waterfront  
 West 8- Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

##### Architecture

Elia Zenghelis/OMA- Skala, Greece, 1984  
 Elia Zenghelis/OMA- Koutavos Bay, Argostoli, Greece, 1985  
 Elia Zenghelis/OMA- Saint Gerasimos, Greece, 1984  
 Elia Zenghelis/OMA- Exposition Universelle, Paris 1983  
 Gigantes/Zenghelis- Las Terranas Resort, 1989  
 Gigantes/Zenghelis- Parc des Chevaux, 1985  
 Gigantes/Zenghelis- Hotel Xenia in Cephalonia, Argostoli, Greece, 1986  
 Gigantes Eleni- The Long Walls Athens, 1990  
 Point Supreme- Faliro Pier, 2012  
 Alvaro Siza- Piscinas da Palmeira, 1966  
 John Hejduk- Victims, 1984  
 Christo and Jeanne-Claude- Floating Piers at Lake Iseo, 2016  
 Roman et Erwan Bouroullec - Reveries urbaines, 2016  
 SANAA Naoshima Ferry Terminal, 2016  
 Aurelio Galfetti, Swimming Pool Bellinzona, Switzerland, 1970  
 Unknown, Anita Garibaldi Promenade, Genoa, Italy



Pireas Municipal swimming pools, Athens coast

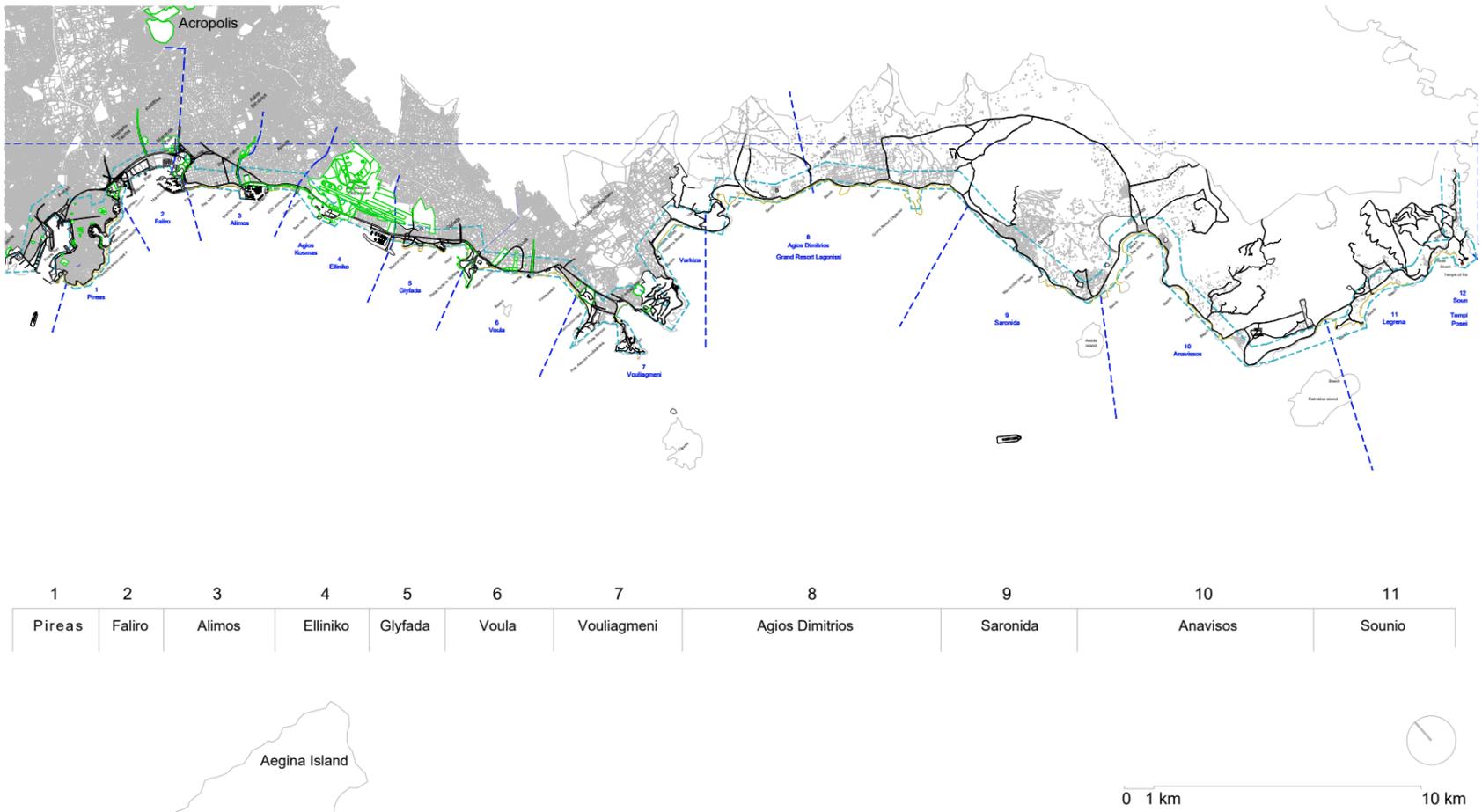


Floisvos open air cinema, Floisvos, Athens coast

## 5. PROGRAM

The studio will focus on program. Examples of programs that will be studied are:

1. Sports
2. Cinema
3. Playground
4. Hotel
5. Restaurant
6. Stage / cinema/ theater
7. Landmarks with no program
8. Water activities
9. Landscape
10. Pedestrian promenade
11. Marinas
12. Pools / natural or artificial
13. Ferris wheel
14. Church
15. Camping
16. Festival / exhibition
17. Diving
18. Archeological park
19. Aquarium



Athens Coast drawing, Point Supreme

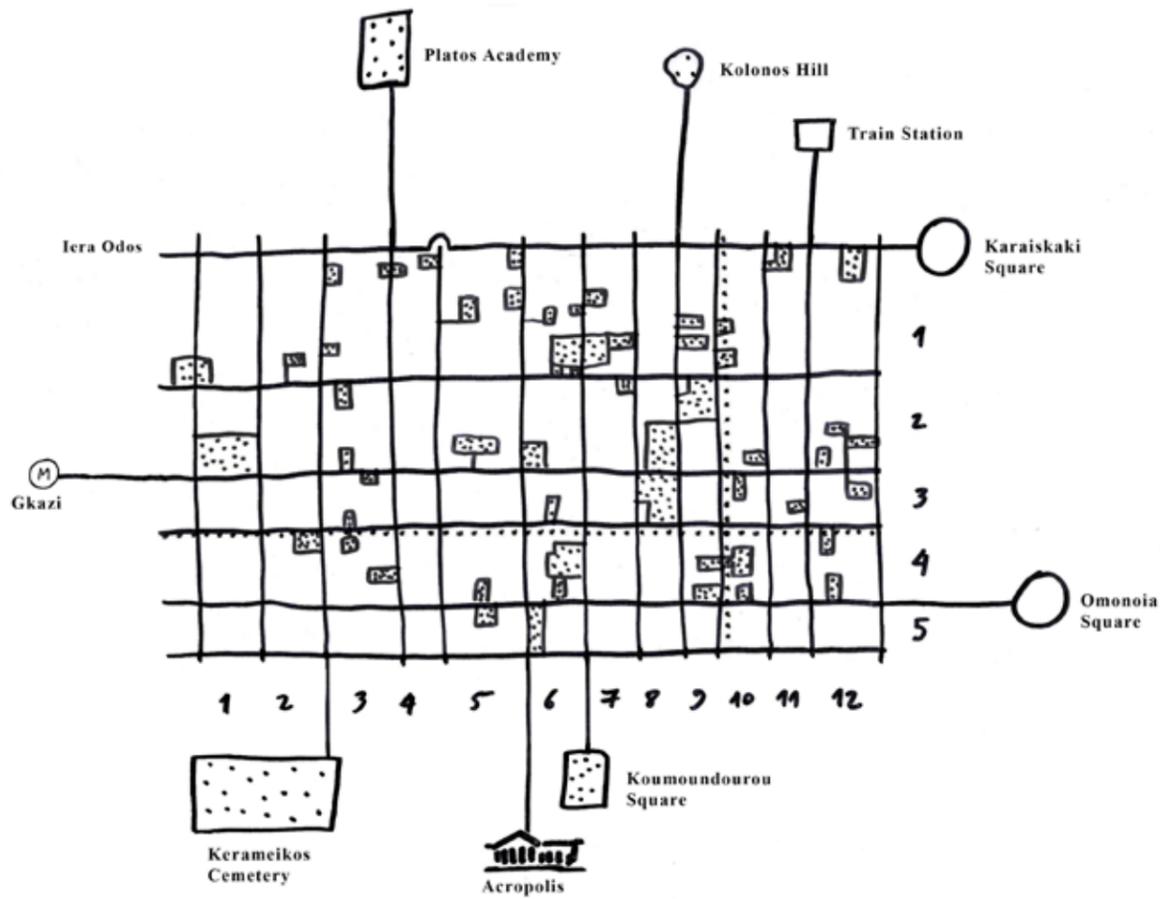
## 6. MAP

The coast will be divided in approximately 10 areas. Each student will study 1 area and present it in a precise dwg drawing using a common group language. The scope is to extract the main identity of each area and to discover what distinguishes it from the others. All the partial maps will be combined in one big map as a collective product at the end of the first phase. The map will include;

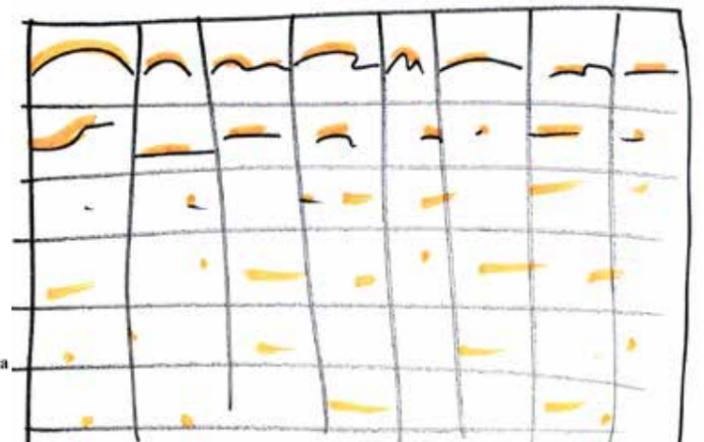
- Beaches
- Rocks (places with no easy access)
- Other landscape elements
- Existing programs
- Infrastructure & urban context: the maps will include a zone of the city behind, showing connections to the city fabric, public spaces or other places of interest in proximity.

The map will be accompanied by research & data for each area that will be presented in an easily understandable way and will include:

- The beaches in each area: how many? What happens in each?
- Specific historical information
- Context information
- Places of interest



Metaxourgeio map, Athens, Point Supreme, 2009



Beaches catalogue, sketch, Point Supreme, 2014

## 7. REPRESENTATION

Each of the 10 areas and the whole coastline will be drawn in an easily communicable way extracting the most important elements: a drawing of multiple simultaneous scales. The goal is to have a non-academic visual tool that can be used by Athenians and tourists. Apart from the drawing there will be different visual tools tested & developed for the same purpose such as catalogues of beaches, visuals and diagrams.



David Hockney, untitled, 1980

## 8. PROPOSALS

Each student will choose one or two project sites and will develop proposals there. The sites and proposals will be complementary as this is a collective project. The projects will be based on a realistic reading of the existing situation and the extraction of its main characteristics. They will be realizable and able to trigger the fantasy of the Athenians. Each project will be shown by means of:

- 2 Collages showing a cross and a frontal view of the project area; street view and view from the sea. The images will include the relation and connections to the city fabric behind, programs, places of interest, neighboring beaches etc.
- Drawings
- Model in the form of an object-toy



Athens Heaven



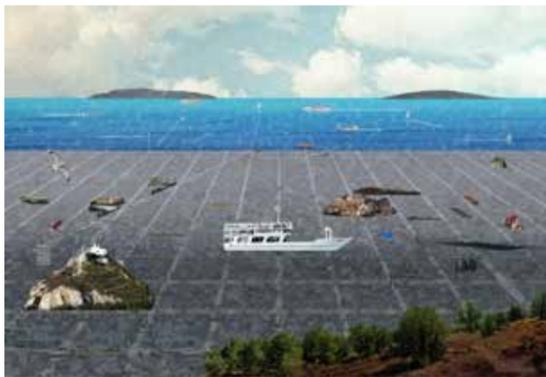
Hortus Conclusus



Kotzia Square



Square Pool



Athens Ferry



Athens as an Island

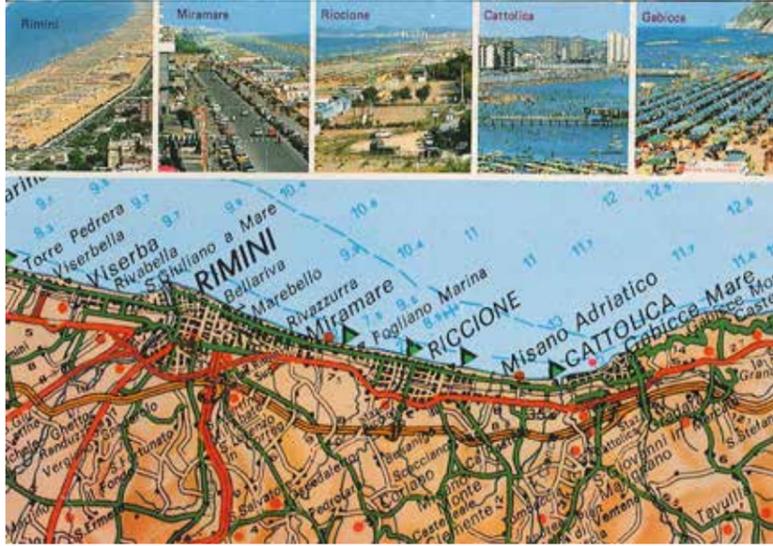
Athens Projects selection, Point Supreme

## 9. MANIFESTO

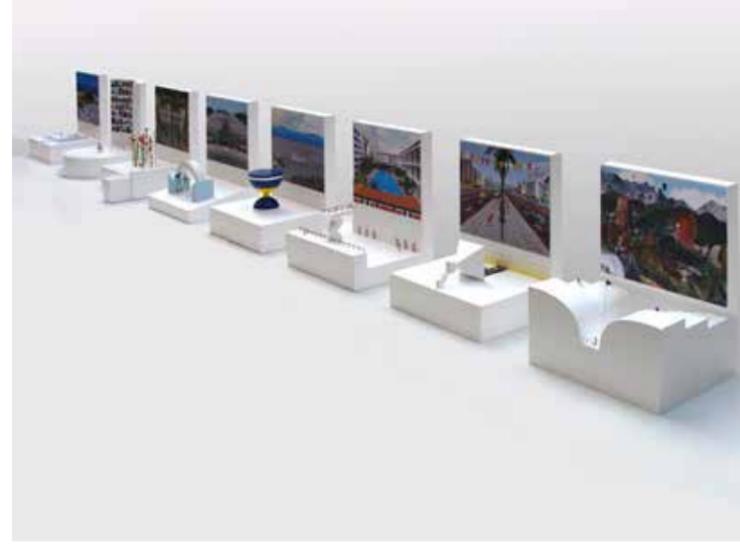
The studio believes that Utopia doesn't need to refer to ideal, non existing cities; it can also be to see and live our cities in new ways. Reality as found is already exciting; the aim is to reveal its hidden potential. Public space deserves to be given a cultural role and turned back into a destination with identity & imagination.

The city is observed and recorded obsessively; buildings, squares, trees, lampposts, sunshades, mountains are included with precision and become equal protagonists of the stories told. Ordinary objects are treated with generosity and no prejudice; they are collected in a constantly updated library of elements, rich in traditions, history, and anonymous architecture. They are placed in synthesised oppositions, creating the conditions for new relationships to develop.

There are no preconceptions of scale or design disciplines; buildings are furniture and mountains are objects, making no difference between rooms and cities, private and public.



Postcard from Point Supreme collection



Athens Projects, models, Venice Biennale 2012

## 10. PRESS & EXHIBITION

The final outcome of the studio will include:

1. Map of Athens coast
2. Collective postcards
3. Collective model of coast including all projects
4. Collective book

All aproduction aims to be easily understood by citizens and visitors of Athens. These will involve a branding campaign and visual material to be published in the country's popular newspapers and magazines. The project will be exhibited in Athens in summer or autumn 2018 funded by the Graham Foundation in Chicago and NEON organization in Athens.

## 11. BIBLIOGRAPHY

### General

- Athens Projects, Point Supreme, 2015
- L'architecture d'aujourd'hui OMA, Paris, no 238, 1985
- El Croquis No. 67, Gigantes/Zenghelis, 1994
- Delirious New York, Rem Koolhaas, 1978
- Los Angeles, The Architecture of Four Ecologies, Reyner Bahnam, 1973
- Learning From Las Vegas, Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown and Steven Izenour, 1977
- The City in the City-Berlin: A Green Archipelago, Sébastien Marot, 2013
- De Ringcultuur, Vlees en Beton ed. 10, Vlees en Beton Publishers, Gent, 1988
- Europe: Coast Wise, 010 publishers, Rotterdam, 1997
- Mythologies, Roland Barthes, 1957
- The Philosophy of Andy Warhol (From A to B and Back Again), 1997

### Greece

- Venice Biennale: Tourism Landscapes by Yannis Aesopos, 2014
- Venice Biennale: Made in Athens, Panos Dragonas & Anna Skiada, 2012
- Venice Biennale: The Dispersed Urbanity of the Aegean Archipelago, 2006 by Elias Constantopoulos
- Athens Lessons, H. Gugger, G. Kerschbaumer and G. Menzel, EPFL, 2011
- Between Sea & City- Eight Piers for Thessaloniki, 1997
- Landscapes of Modernisation: Greek Architecture, 1960s and 1990s, Yannis Aesopos & Yorgos Simeoforidis, Metapolis Press, Greece, 1999
- Heracles: The contemporary Greek city and the urban programme, Francesco Infussi & Yorgos Simeoforidis, Athens, 2000
- Doxiadis C, Our Capital and its Future. A long-Term Policy and Programme for Athens, Athens, 1961

### Online articles on Urban Coasts & Athens

- 18 of the greatest cities for beach lovers (Athens is 17)
- The 7 Best Urban Beaches of the World
- Greece road trip: the seaside idyll of the Athenian Riviera
- GreekLandscapes.com map
- Athens Beaches
- Beaches Near Athens
- Top 10 Athens Beaches
- Greece Is, Athens, Winter 2017-18

## 12. SCHEDULE

<u>Week 1:</u> 17 Jan, Wednesday 18 Jan, Thursday: Studio conversation (K+JS)	Syllabus presentation Introduction
<u>Week 2:</u> 22 Jan, Monday: Pin Up (K+JS) 25 Jan, Thursday: Studio Desk crits (K+JS)	A. Map & division in 10 areas -//-
<u>Week 3:</u> 29 Jan, Monday: Studio Desk crits (JS) 1 Feb, Thursday: Studio Desk crits (JS)	B. Research -//- finish in the form of a booklet
<u>Week 4:</u> 5 Feb, Monday: Pin Up (JS) 8 Feb, Thursday: Studio Desk crits (JS)	C. Visuals & Representation -//-
<u>Week 5:</u> 12 Feb, Monday: Pin Up (K+JS) 15 Feb, Thursday: Pin Up (K+JS)	D. Projects -//- & Mock up mid term
<u>Week 6:</u> 19 Feb, Monday: Studio Desk crits (JS) 22 Feb, Thursday (K+JS)	<b><u>Mid Term presentation</u></b>
<u>Week 7:</u> 26 Feb, Monday Studio Desk crits (JS) 1 March, Thursday Studio Desk crits (JS)	D. Projects -//-
<u>Week 8:</u> 4-10 March: Travel Week	<b><u>Trip to Athens</u></b>
<u>Week 9</u> =Spring Break	
<u>Week 10:</u> 19 March, Monday, Pin up (K+JS) 22 March, Thursday, Studio Desk crits (K+JS)	D. Projects- map -//-
<u>Week 11:</u> 26 March, Monday, Pin up (JS) 29 March, Thursday Studio Desk crits (JS)	D. Projects- drawings -//-
<u>Week 12:</u> 2 April, Monday, Pin Up (M+JS) 5 April, Thursday, Studio Desk crits (M+JS)	D. Projects- collages -//-
<u>Week 13:</u> 9 April, Monday, Pin Up (JS) 12 April, Thursday, Studio Desk crits (JS)	-//- -//-
<u>Week 14:</u> 16 April, Monday, Pin Up (K+JS) 19 April, Thursday Studio Desk crits (K+JS)	E. Collective project -//-
<u>Week 15:</u> 23 April, Monday, Pin Up (J-S) 26 April, Thursday Studio Desk crits (J-S)	-//- -//-
<u>Week 16:</u> 30 April, Monday, Pin Up (K+M+JS) 2 May, Wednesday (K+M+JS)	Final Presentation Mock up <b><u>Final Presentation</u></b>



Siggrou Avenue, Point Supreme

## POINT SUPREME

POINT SUPREME was founded by Konstantinos Pantazis and Marianna Rentzou in 2008 after working in London, Rotterdam, Brussels and Tokyo. They regularly publish self-initiated projects for the city of Athens where they are based. In 2012 they won the acclaimed international competition for the Faliro Pier in Athens and were included by popular Greek newspaper LIFO among the 20 most influential personalities in Greece. In 2015 they were included in Wallpaper\* magazine's Architects Directory and the first book dedicated to their work was published by Graham Foundation in Chicago with the title 'Athens Projects'. In 2017 they were curators of 'After Utopia' at Ljubljana Biennale of Design, and they finished building the 'Petralona House'. They lecture and teach internationally and are currently building projects in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Athens and the Greek Islands.

[www.pointsupreme.com](http://www.pointsupreme.com)

## JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LEBRETON

Jean-Sébastien Lebreton is an architect graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles in 2011. He worked for several offices in Paris, Genoa, Brussels and Athens. In 2010, Jean-Sébastien collaborated with Point Supreme on various projects including 'Archipelago Cities'. Since 2011 he is architect and curator at the Pavillon de l'Arsenal, Centre for Architecture of Paris and the Parisian Metropolis.

