

‘Santorini: Beyond the Domestic’

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Santorini island in Greece is one of the most famous tourist destinations in the world; its extraordinary beauty owes to its unique landscape and distinctive architecture, defined by the simplicity and adaptability of its buildings, including caves and domes built of ash and forming an absolute union with its particular volcanic soil.

The island has recently become an over-tourism battleground; The island’s population of 15.000 has been doubled in the last 5 years. The tourism season has been extended, now covering the whole year. In addition, day-tourists arriving on cruise ships reach 8,000 arrivals a day. The predicted population for 2020 is nearly 130.000.

The island and its settlements struggle with problems usually associated with big cities, like traffic jams, water shortages, insufficient waste management. Because of the crowds, it is difficult for locals to walk their kids to the nearby school.

The rising demand has resulted in constant construction. Nearly 20% of Santorini has been built on, following no overall masterplan and with constructions that often violate laws. Santorini’s comparative advantage, the once-idyllic landscape itself, is being built up becoming as congested as Athens; the former economy cultivation of hundreds of years old vines, fava and tomato and the unique wine industry are endangered by encroaching tourism and in struggle to be preserved.

But ironically, because of the proliferation of Airbnb, workers can’t find a house to stay; teachers sleep in the school or in tents, workers stay in basements, policemen refuse to move to the island. There is a tremendous lack of housing for permanent residents.

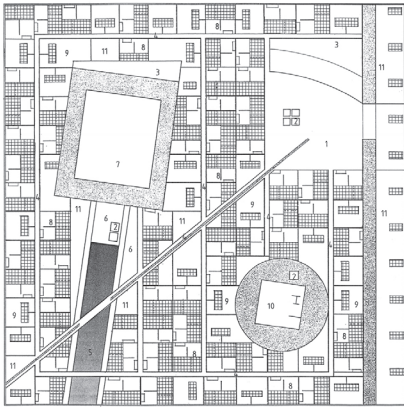


Task

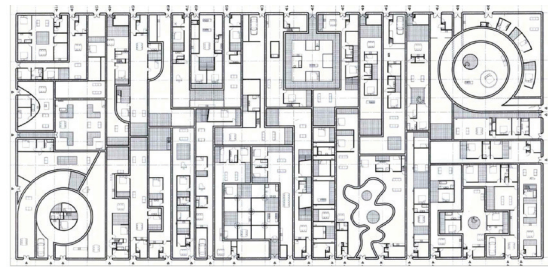
The studio will deal with the addition of municipally operated mixed use projects combining housing and public programs on Santorini; combinations of extreme high-densities that visually consume as little ground surface as possible with low-rise buildings that fit with the landscape and small scale of the existing settlements. The presence of nature beyond any obviousness will be considered, as well as the hybridization of collective and individual, productive and residential functions, new forms of work, leisure and socialization, the mix of elementary and sophisticated technologies.

Clear, legible form to act as new, contemporary pieces of city in opposition to the sprawling, indefinite and formless development of the urban expansions taking place today. Neighborhoods instead of individual houses. Autonomous entities that satisfy their own infrastructural and other needs.

New public programs and other complementary uses will be tested on the basis of true environmental demands; new places of gathering away from the congested tourist destinations and new spatial experiences for the island. Ground surface for recreation, promoting new economies based on land cultivation or wines, energy production, water collection and waste processing.



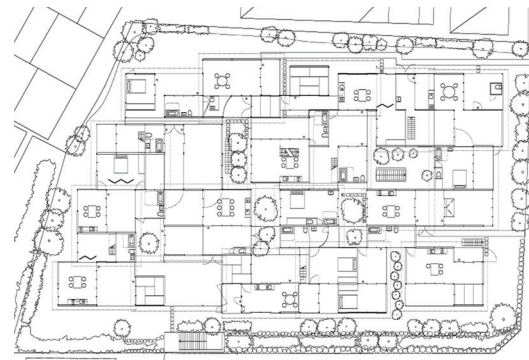
OMA, Agadir Convention Centre, 1990



MVRDV, Patio Island 01, 2001



Ryue Nishizawa, Eda Apartments, 2002



Kazuyo Sejima, Nishinoyama House apartments, 2010-2013

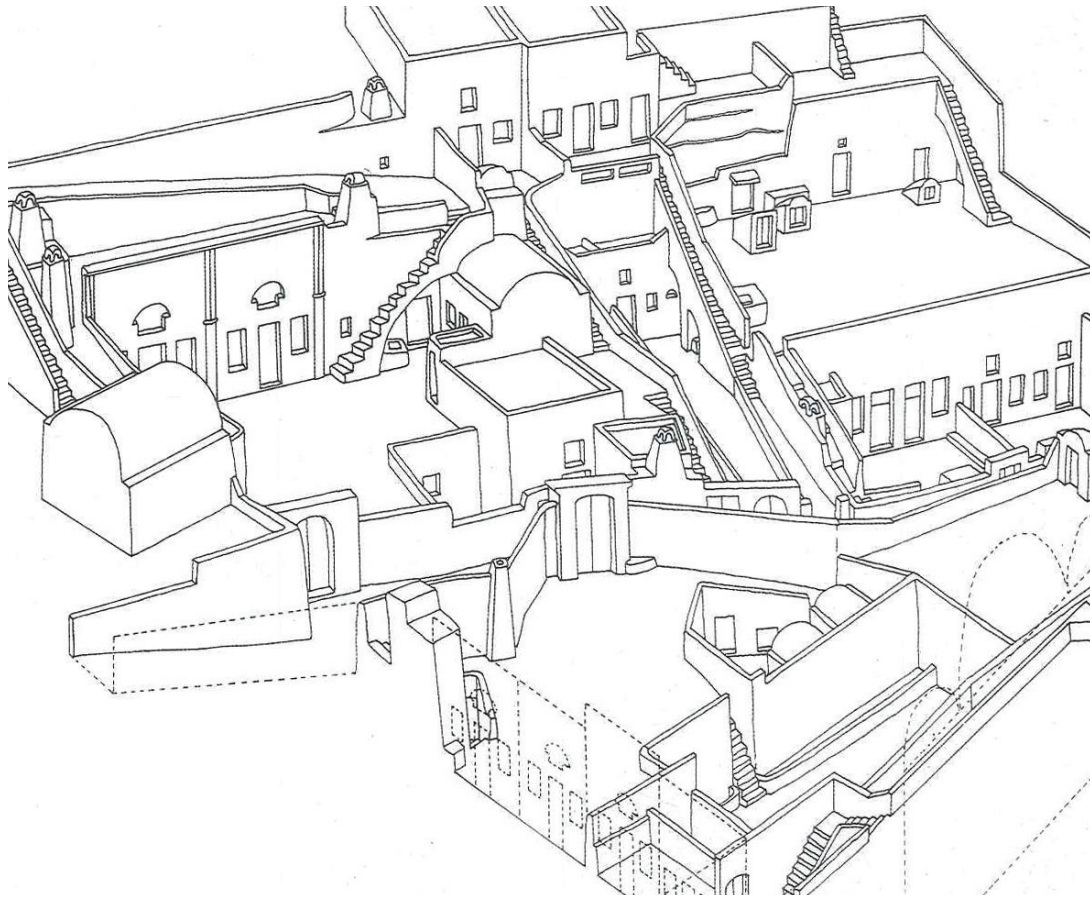
Method

The students will work in teams. In the first weeks each team will be asked to study two precedents: a contemporary mat-building and a fragment of traditional Santorini architecture.

The contemporary precedents will be radical projects from the Netherlands and Japan, two countries where density has historically been an issue of cultural significance and where strong examples of both radical poetics of space and extreme functionality have been achieved.

In Santorini, high densities have resulted from many reasons: shortage of safe land, mutual protection from the wind and solar heat, security, family growth, saving of construction materials, as well as a high communal spirit of life. Solid volumes ignore private boundaries, properties overlap. A continuous composition of masonry walls with small openings that responds to the climatic conditions using the locally available resources.

The study of a settlement fragment will uncover some of the lessons of Cycladic architecture; its economy, efficiency, inventiveness, the pragmatic relation to landscape and topography and poetics of construction. Truly commonplace and totally functional; the paradox of developing form without applying itself particularly to form. Its particular ergonomic scale similar to the one found in ships: low doors, narrow and steep stairs, tiny inner & outer spaces. Products of necessity rather than choice, nature giving the main design parameters with materials scarcity, climate, earthquakes and topography.



These precedents will be studied at the same scale revealing their unexpected similarities. The learnings of the two exercises will inform the design for a new building that will relate to the various landscape and urban conditions of the island, faraway from neo-traditional imitations.

Each project will need to define its own agenda, emphasizing the social and political content of disciplinary explorations regarding density, building systems and the programming of the project's occupation, among others.

Kinne Travel

The studio will travel to Greece between 11-16 March 2019, spending 4 days in Santorini and two days in Athens. It will include several on-site visits, visits to historical and contemporary architectural landmarks, and will discuss the projects with local architects, professors and local agents such as regional politicians with authority over the subject to discuss its relevance.

Santorini Schedule Spring 2019

Week 1

23 Jan, Studio Lottery (PS&G)

24 Jan Thursday, Studio Introduction, Kick-Off Exercise 1 (PS&G)

Week 2

28 Jan Monday, Pin Up (PS&G)

31 Jan Thursday, Review Exercise 1, Kick-Off Exercise 2 (G)

Week 3

4 Feb Monday, Desk Crits (G)

7 Feb Thursday, Desk Crits (G)

Week 4

11 Feb Monday, Review Exercise 2, Kick-Off Design Project (K&G)

14 Feb Thursday, Desk Crits (K&G)

Week 5

18 Feb Monday, Desk Crits (G)

21 Feb Thursday, Desk Crits (G)

Week 6

25 Feb Monday, Pin Up (K&G)

28 Feb Thursday, Pin Up (K&G)

1 March Friday, Mid Term Review (K&G)

Week 7

4 March Monday, Desk Crits (G)

7 March Thursday, Pin Up (G)

Week 8

11-16 March: Travel Week in Greece (PS&G)

Week 9

Spring Break Week

Week 10

25 March Monday, Desk Crits (G)

28 March Thursday, Pin Up (K&G)

Week 11

1 April Monday, Desk Crits (M&G)

4 April Thursday, Desk Crits (G)

Week 12

8 April Monday, Desk Crits (G)

11 April Thursday, Desk Crits (G)

Week 13

15 April Monday, Desk Crits (G)

18 April Thursday, Pin Up (K&G)

19 April Friday, Supercrit (K&G)

Week 14

22 April Monday, Desk Crits (K&G)

25 April Thursday, Desk Crits (K&G)

Week 15

29 April Monday, Pin Up (K&G)

2 May Thursday, Pin Up (K&G)

3 May Friday, Final Review (PS&G)

PS= Konstantinos & Marianna
G= Giovanni