



homage to togetherness

The Last Resort - Remembering Spatial Patterns of Togetherness

Brief - The International Student Competition

togetherness

noun

the state of being close to another person or other people.

The Covid-19 outbreak completely changed the landscape of the everyday throughout the whole world. We have seen striking images of the most famous and beautiful cities completely emptied of human life. We have seen surreal images of booming nature and felt as surplus in the world that is our home. We have started to recognize what is already named “a visual landscape of Covid-19” consisted of sanitarian and disciplinarian techniques that impose new orders of everyday functioning - the “two-metre rule” is the new architect that draws queues and grids on public space layouts. We have become faceless figures that practice distancing.

The Student Architectural Competition ***The Last Resort - Remembering Spatial Patterns of Togetherness*** aims to motivate an inverse imaginative response to this new visual landscape as an action of inner rebellion that we must not forget the intrinsic character of architecture - to bring together, to connect! What we want to provoke and compile is **homage to togetherness!**

We invite students to remember, to explore, to learn, to think of spatial patterns that promote the socially interactive, the inclusive, the integrative, the playful, the empathetic, the interstitial. The students are expected to design small-scale, low-tech projects based on the abovementioned intentions.

The word “resort” has a double meaning, one being “*a place where people can go on vacation to relax or for an activity they enjoy*” and the other (especially when used with ‘the last’) is “*the fact of doing something in a particular situation because there is no other way of achieving something.*” This collective imaginative resort, compiled of every student’s individual, small-scale project based on their own idea of togetherness at the end of the competition, will represent an important message that architecture can resist, rather than reflect, this temporal external reality of social distancing.



So, we really hope that our small-scale architecture will resonate the big-scale truth and hope for architecture as homage to togetherness.

Thank you to all who will take part in this challenge!

Task Description

The students are expected to master and demonstrate level of understanding of the means by which architecture situates togetherness through the design process of a small-scale, low-tech architecture in the Macedonian village of Lazaropole.

The notion of togetherness is universal as value, but personal as feeling. Students are encouraged to find, recognize and work with that personal feeling/association of togetherness. However, the 29th Session of the Summer School of Architecture will provide a series of educational activities that will support that process of self-reflection with knowledge and instruction in order to canalize their perception and accelerate their imagination.

These educational activities are following the unique process of design of this competition task and encourage it respectively in the stages of empathizing, defining and ideating.

Activity No1 | Atlas of Togetherness

“Atlas of Togetherness” is an interactive initiative. All the professors and friends of the Faculty of Architecture, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, are invited to contribute with one illustration (photography/drawing/sketch of architectural project) with or without short text of 100-150 words, or one theoretical article that strongly expresses their personal association to togetherness in architecture. We aim to pick into this personal, sensual knowledge of togetherness and to juxtapose it in a web platform for exchange between colleagues and students. In that way, it will represent open, ever-growing celebration of togetherness, an act of togetherness itself, but it will also function as a motivational container for the students and contestants.

Activity No2 | Opening Webinar - Virtual Opening of the 29th Session Summer School of Architecture

The opening of the 29th Session Summer School of Architecture will be a public event and will take place on a digital platform, with an introduction speech by Ognen Marina, the Dean of Faculty of Architecture, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. An introductory lecture “Situating Togetherness” by Meri Batakoja, the Course Director of the 29th Session Summer School of Architecture will follow. The members of the



working team by Faculty of Architecture, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University and other invited guests will welcome the students and give short motivational speeches. The introductory lecture will be distributed to the competitors in a form of instructive guidelines as addition to the competition material.

Activity No3 | Closing Webinar – What Did We Learn About Architecture of Togetherness?

After the jury committee will make the final decision about the awarded competition projects, a webinar about the learning process will take place in a form of final reviews, open discussion between the jury committee and the contestants, faculty representatives, fellow students, etc. The aim of this public event is to reflect on the results, express public gratitude to the best ideas, underline lessons learnt about architecture of togetherness and conclude on the topic of the session: did we manage to do homage to togetherness?

Programme

The programme should regard the notion of leisure time and the activities people enjoy doing together - relaxing, cultivating through art, learning, enjoying the city and nature, reflecting the values of local culture and anything else we are deprived from right now. We encourage students to get personally involved and to design taking account of the activities they miss and to envision situation of togetherness through the scope of their age and inner experience.

Context of the Competition

The village/rural settlement of Lazaropole is situated on a plateau at Mount Bistra at 1,350 m altitude, making it one of the highest settlements in North Macedonia. It is named after a local medieval hero, Lazar, who according to the legend was the sole survivor of a Turkish attack on his village. The rest of his fellow citizens were killed in a cave where they had sought refuge, while Lazar, the only survivor, crawled outside and built a new settlement. Lazaropole, on the other hand, etymologically comes from an Old Slavic word (lazorъ) meaning a large area without forest, a depiction that really fits the natural structure of the village.

The inhabitants of this village belonged to the famous Slavic tribe Mijaci. There were 3,000 inhabitants around the year 1900, but today it represents just a tourist destination, as locals have left it as their permanent home long time ago. It is most vibrant during the summer. Today, there are about 400 houses in the village. The older ones reveal the traces of the Mijaci highland building style. There is an inspiring story



how the village Church of St. George, built in 1838, was built by an act of togetherness, with participation of every citizen, with their own hands, under the guidance of Gjurchin Kokale, a famous revivalist and founder of the church.

Competition Location

The entering road of Lazaropole leads directly to the front façade of the Kalin Hotel. There, it expands into a triangular vernacular “piazza” that functions as a social core of the village. The road is characterized with very low traffic intensity and is perceived as a safe pedestrian venture.

The north side of this “piazza” is the south façade of the Kalin Hotel. There are public functions on its east side, such as the local store and the community club. The competition location is an empty plot that forms an angle of greenery between the west side of this “piazza” and the extension of the road towards the west, in a block with residential houses. There is a temporary structure that functions as a bakery at the very angle. There is a public faucet at the western edge of the competition location.

Calendar

16.07.2020	Launching of the International Architectural Competition “Homage to Togetherness” Open Call for Registration
16.07.2020	Launching of the Initiative “Atlas of Togetherness”
27.07.2020	Deadline for submitting the Registration Form
28.07.2020	Opening Webinar Virtual Opening of the 29 th Session Summer School of Architecture
17.08.2020	Deadline for submitting the Competition Works
17.08.2020 28.08.2020	Two Sessions of the Jury Committee
01.09.2020	Closing Webinar What Did We Learn About Architecture of Togetherness?
TBD	Awards Ceremony Public Exhibition Promotion of the Booklet “Homage to Togetherness”