**Inventing Tradition: Architectural Repertoires in tourist resorts design**

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**abstract**

Architecture plays a crucial role in shaping the physical environment of the tourism industry. On the one hand authenticity and identity have become essential factors of the attractiveness of the tourist destinations. On the other hand current trends in tourism demand certain facilities which were never part of the traditional environment. Swimming pools for example have become a necessary feature of tourist complexes even in areas (such as the Cycladic islands in Greece) where water has always been scarce.

Architecture interprets these needs and requirements though a repertoire of physical elements and design inventories.  Legal frameworks have been set up in order to protect the character of each place, enforcing architects to use certain materials, colors, or shapes with reference to the specific spatial context within which they are working. Thus traditional forms are being primarily interpreted so as to be able to be “safely reproduced” into present. Architectural design exemplifies the initial interpretation into more complex forms in order to accommodate the new range of programmatic requirements needed for tourism. In some cases these transformations result to completely new products. “Views and vistas” for example, have become a major requirement so terraces and balconies have become a necessary spatial feature in areas (ie the island of Santorini, Greece) where “view” was never an issue in traditional buildings. Between the programmatic constrains and the quest for originality a whole inventory of architectural elements is being produced.

The paper will draw examples from case studies in Greek islands in the Aegean sea.

**References**

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Vaso Trova was born in Samos (1961). Architect eng NTUA (1986), MSc Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning UCL (1989). She teaches at the UTH since 1999. She has been a visiting teacher at the AA London (2002), a visiting prof. at  London South Bank University (2008), Politecnico di MIlano (2004-2013), Universidade Lusofona Lisbon (2006-2013). Head of Dept. of Architecture UTH (2016-2018). A practicing architect, she has designed and implemented various projects in Greece, she has won prizes in architectural competitions and has participated in exhibitions in Greece and abroad. Her research focuses on design issues in reference to contemporary urban phenomena, mobility and temporary inhabitation, urban landscapes, urban networks and their relation to the designed space.