

Workshop: bringing the city together / spatial interventions in Tirana residential areas

## **urban identities / memory modernism architecture**

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# urban identities

do people / cities have singular and stable identities?

what is the role of culture and politics?

who is telling the story?

why are certain spaces symbolic such that they become landmarks?

how is public and private space defined through identity?

does the city represent particular spatialities of identity, politics or culture?

# **identity construction**

inclusion - exclusion

diversity - uniformity

# urban identities

+ local – global

+ migration – mobility

+ balkan identities

+ post-socialist identities

+ local - global





+ city marketing – mega projects





BIRDSEYE-VIEW





+ urban restoration



+ migration



+ migration

mobility

cosmopolitanism

multiple (hybrid) identities







+ balkan identities

balkanization

nationalism



+ post-socialist identities







## **memory**

especially since 1989 the issues of memory and forgetting have emerged as dominant concerns in post-communist countries in Eastern Europe (Huyssen, 2000)

## **the politics of memory: remembering and forgetting**

selection

rejection

reconstruction

nostalgia









# MEMENTO PARK **BUDAPEST**

remains of communist dictatorship

english ma



information

sights

concept



## NEWS

The red star in the middle of Memento Park has become the most spectacular sight, which is more than 10 meter in diameter and its made up of red flowers. [Next »](#)







### GJENOCIDI DHE TERRORI KOMUNIST NE SHQIPERI NEPERMJET DISA TREGUESVE:

U VRANE 5157 NJEREZ, NGA KETA 89 ISHIN GRA.  
U VRANE NEPER 1000 KOSOVARE NE SHQIPERI VETEM NE FILLIM TE VITIT 1945.  
VDIQEN NEPER BURGJE 952 NJEREZ, NGA KETA 7 ISHIN GRA.  
HUMBEN AFTESITE MENDORE 273 NJEREZ, NGA KETA 29 ISHIN GRA.  
U BURGJOSEN SI TE DENUAR POLITIKE 17900 NJEREZ, NGA KETA 450 ISHIN GRA.  
U INTERNUAN ME MOTIVE POLITIKE 30383 NJEREZ.  
KIShte 23 BURGJE.  
KIShte 48 KAMPE INTERNIMI MASIV.  
U DEBUAN NGA QYTETET KRYESORE DHE RAJONET KUFITARE ME DHJETERA MIJERA BANORE

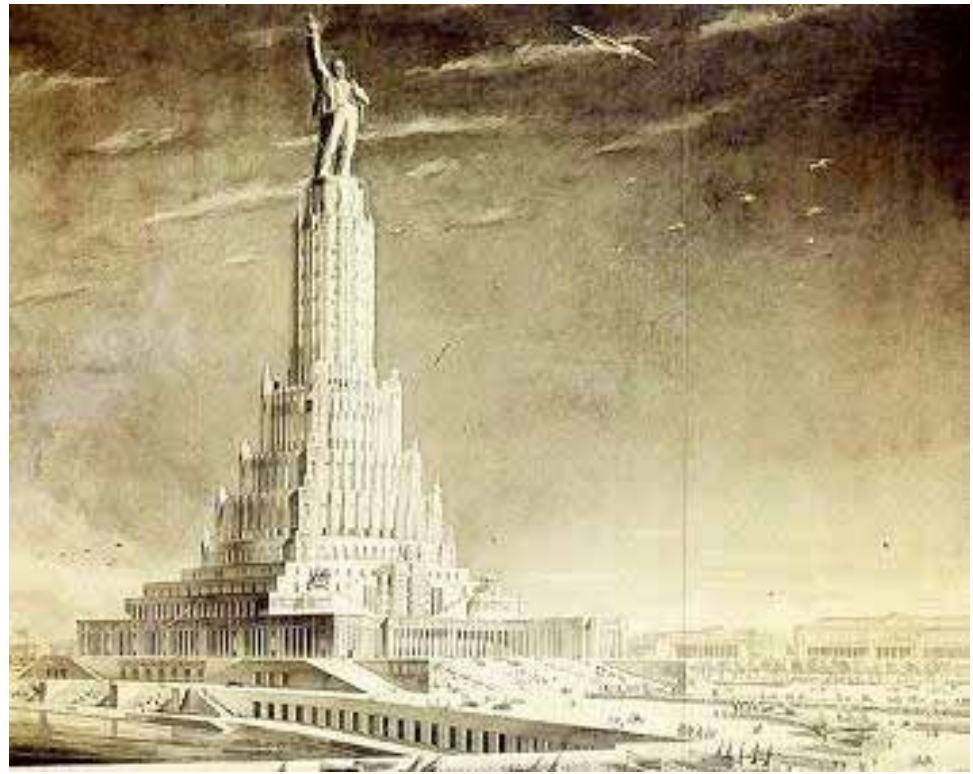


















'...one of the most surprising cultural and political phenomena of recent years has been the emergence of memory as a key concern in Western societies, a **turning toward the past** that stands in stark **contrast to the privileging of the future** so characteristic of earlier decades of twentieth century **modernity**'  
(Huyssen, 2000)

## Modernism / architecture

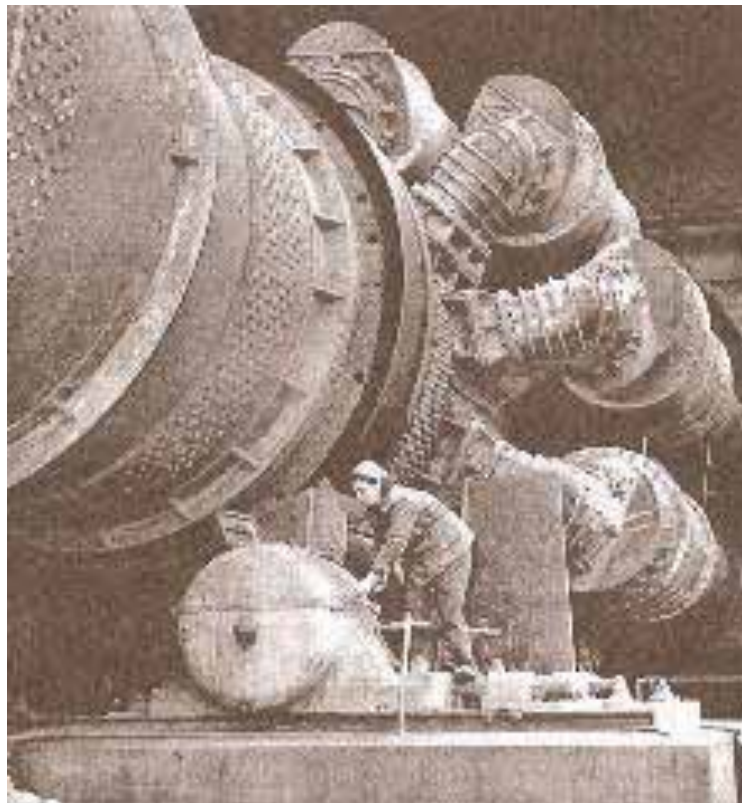
+ modernism as a utopian project that was to free the people from problems of the city, from the constraints of the past.

+as a tool of authority and power expressing in a symbolic way the political and ideological agendas and as tools of social control creating uniformity and exclusion at the same time. Different and other identities were suppressed and excluded in the modernization processes.





Modernization





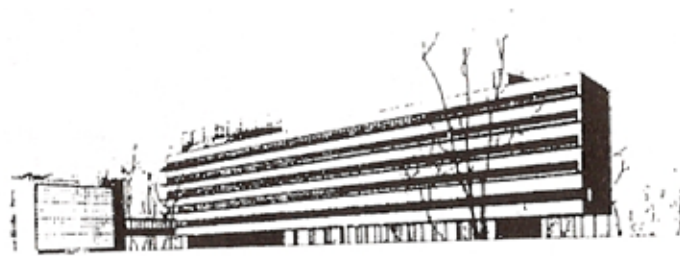


Modern City

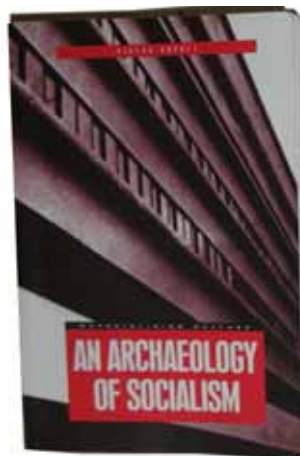
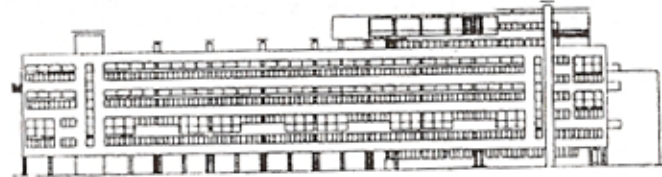
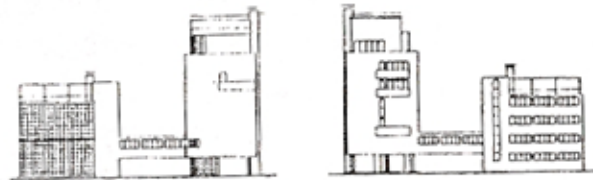




Domestic Space



Narkomfin, 1929 Moscow







Refugee Housing, 30s, Athens



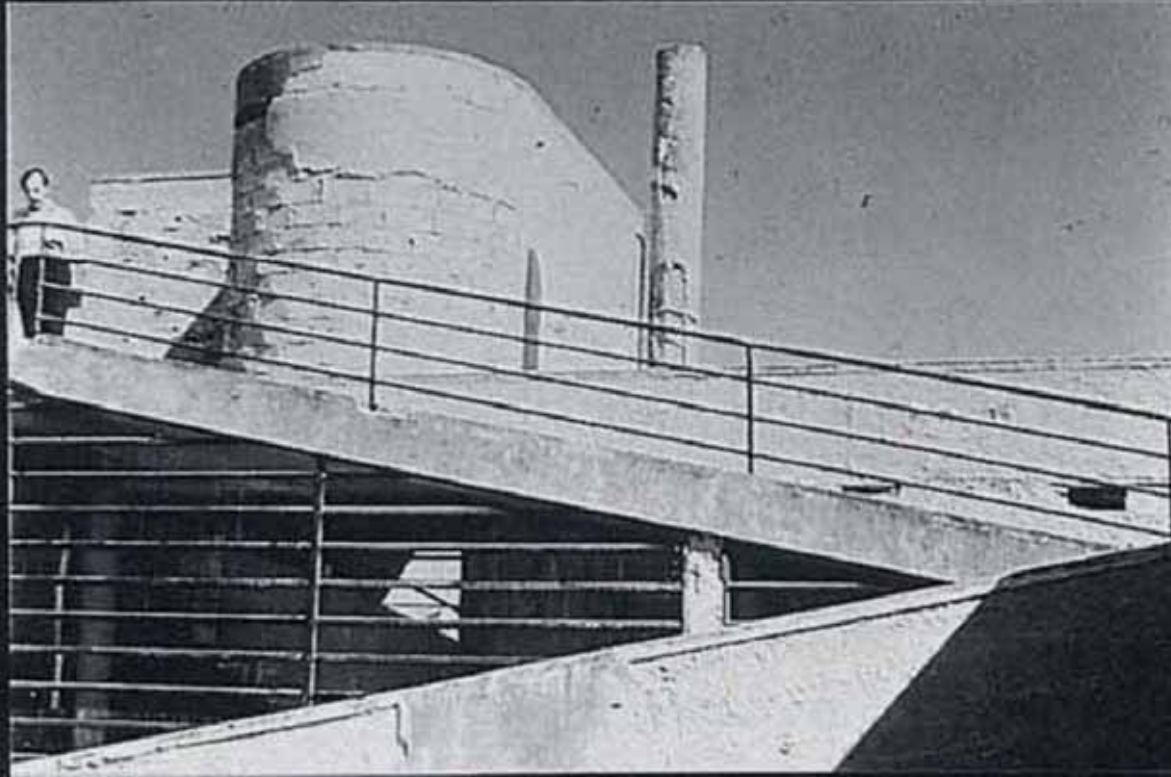


Refugee Housing, 30s, Athens



Villa Savoye, Poissy, Paris (1929)

The most architectural thing  
about this building is  
the state of decay in which it is.



Architecture only survives  
where it negates the form that  
society expects of it.  
Here it negates itself by  
transgressing the limits that  
history has set for it.

Tschumi B. 1976, 'Architecture and  
Transgression', *Oppositions*, p.55-68, MIT Press



# DOCUMENTATION and CONSERVATION of buildings and MODERN MOVEMENT

DO.CO.MO.MO

## Minimum Documentation Fiche 2003

composed by national/regional working party of: CYPRUS

1 Picture of building/site



depicted item:

source:

date:

View of front façade of the Public Market  
(Dimotiki Agora)  
Personal archive of Stauros Economou  
c. 1965

2 Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden

- 1.1 current name of building
- 1.2 variant or former name
- 1.3 number & name of street
- 1.4 town
- 1.5 province/state
- 1.6 zip code
- 1.7 country
- 1.8 national grid reference
- 1.9 classification/typology
- 1.10 protection status & date

Public Market (Dimotiki Agora)

Lefkosia (Nicosia)

Lefkosia (Nicosia)

Cyprus

COM



## "Other" Modernisms

'...mainstream historiographic construction of twentieth-century modernism through its canonic texts and buildings has marginalized or suppressed some modern trajectories, which are now gaining an unprecedented legitimacy as the subject matter of revisionist histories. Today the exclusive, totalizing and teleological histories of modern architecture are highly suspect and the presumed internal consistency and morphological integrity of modernism is no longer taken for granted by recent critical approaches in line with contemporary scholarship in the humanities and social sciences.'

IXth International DOCOMOMO Conference,  
Turkey, 2006

Geographical  
Chronological  
Formal  
Ideological and  
political diversity

-How we deal with a specific part of architectural history? how do we evaluate? how can we consider this as a part of the city's memory and identity? And how their current condition presents a challenge and architectural and historical interest.

-the “non-western” others of a predominantly western modernism (colonial encounters, exile, emigration, diasporas, trans-national histories etc); -the national, regional or local others of “international style” (various searches for “national expression” within twentieth-century modernism); -the subaltern others of homogeneous modern identities (race, gender, sexuality and class as they have informed modern spatial practices); -the anonymous, vernacular or “ordinary” others of canonic modernism (generic slab-block apartments or squatter zones); -the “hybrid” others of a pure, pristine modernism (eclectic variations, multiple identities, cross-breeds); -the “underdeveloped” others of advanced, industrial modernisms (low-tech, appropriate tech, infrastructure projects, materials, building industry, labor, capital, patronage etc); -the preservationist others of a transient, design-oriented, utopic conception of the modern (the idea of modern architecture as repository of collective memory, as “heritage”); -the temporal others of a linear modernist history that has peaked in two periods: interwar and postwar (time-lags, synchrony, diachrony, pioneers, latecomers etc).



## Challenge of change

Xth International DOCOMOMO Conference,  
Rotterdam, 2008

+ MODERN BUILDINGS AND PLANNING IS  
PRESENT IN THE CITY and ITS EFFECTS  
ARE STILL EVIDENT in everyday and  
cultural life of the city.

+ BUT IN THE CONTEMPORARY CITY  
MORE ISSUES OCCUR REGARDING  
MODERN ARCHITECTURE:

- many buildings are still in use and are for  
many people homes
- building materials decay and the  
transformation of social needs bring  
modernist architecture in derelict or ruined  
condition
- demolished and unrecorded
- neglected and under-evaluated



Tirana, Study area





Tirana, Study area

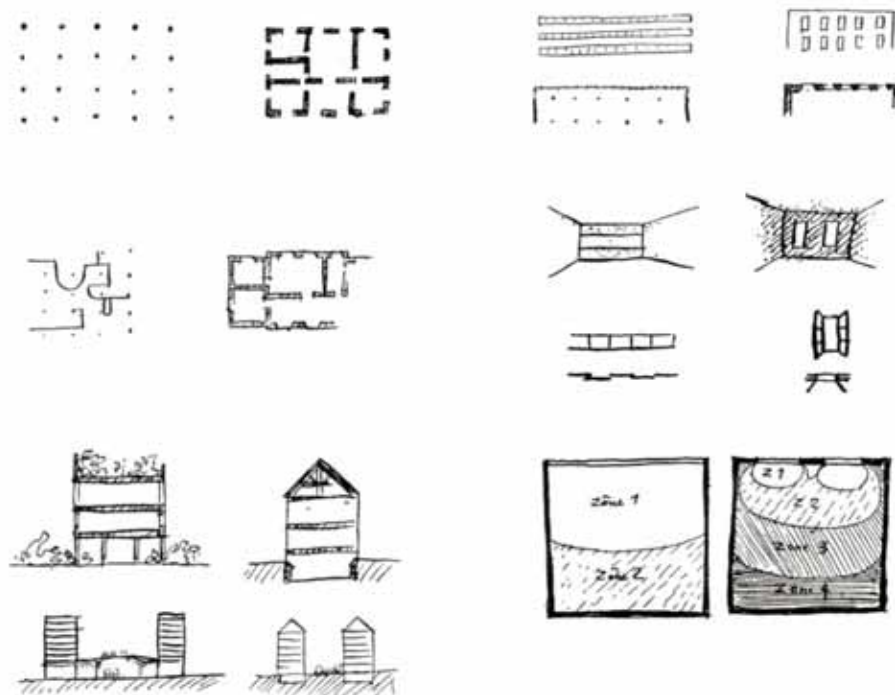


Tirana, Study area

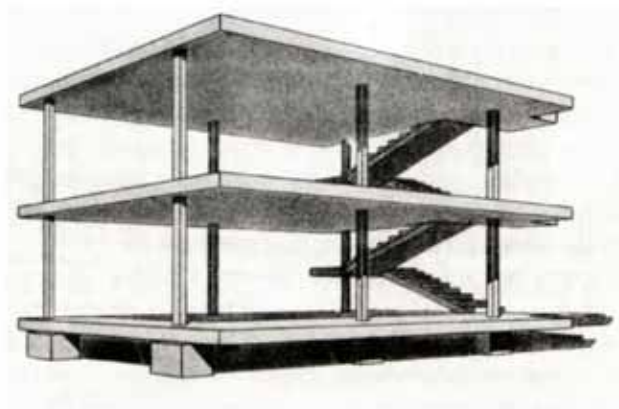


Tirana, Study area

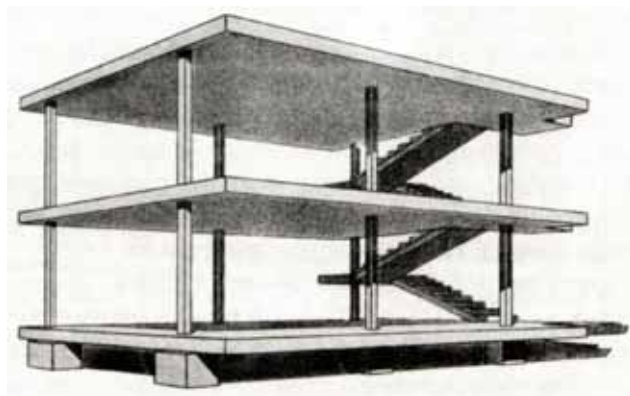


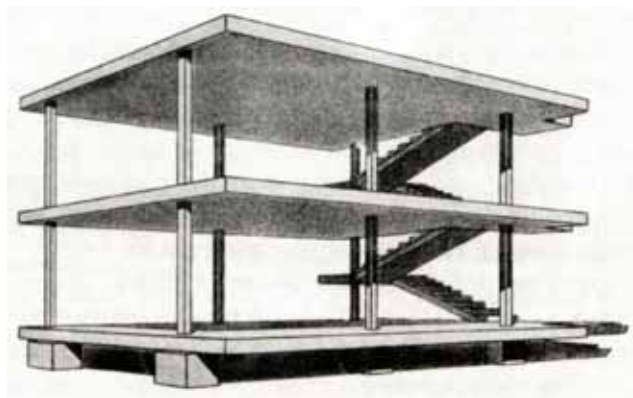


ΕΙΚΟΝΑ 2: Σκίτσο των αρχών της μοντέρνας αρχιτεκτονικής σε αντίθεση προς τις αρχές της κλασικής αρχιτεκτονικής, από τον Le Corbusier



ΕΙΚΟΝΑ 3: Σχέδιο του Maison Domino που πρότεινε ο Le Corbusier.







what is interesting to us?

is it just the original  
conditions of the buildings?

is it just a reconstructed past  
in the archive (drawings) or in  
the city? The creation of a  
museum of modern  
architecture or monuments  
of modern architecture?

## An archaeology of modernism

+ an extended field of reading architecture that goes beyond the building and takes into account the objects, the equipment, the left-overs and the traces of inhabitation, the indifferent or even hidden spaces of the buildings

+ the dynamic of changes, transformations, expansions, distortions and disfigurations, the errors and failures of modernist planning and architecture are part of this study.

The aim is not just the creation of the archive that would preserve a precious past but also an archive that would take into account the history of the buildings and everyday life.



Apartment  
building in  
Nicosia Cyprus.  
N. Michaelides,  
1965







