
The "Multicase"

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This project deals with the rethinking of the city as a mobility receptor. It proposes adapting mechanisms for the existing to accommodate the new, through the design of "cases" that snap into different types of space typologies and intent to convert them into spaces with friction of diversities, spaces accessible to the public flows, mediation spaces that filter the public - private relationship and living spaces for extra short, short and long inhabiting. The case may consist in multiple uses, either synchronized either independent. Also, a use predefines a specific activity while a case can encourage several spontaneous activities. A use may be revolving around private benefit, however a case concentrates in public interest by giving the opportunity to something temporary to react with something permanent. In the same way, a use can be completely introverted as opposed to the case, which is opened to the public space, unleashing different situations in a common ground and, at the same time, absorbing the public flows into the case space. Finally, while a use maintains physical boundaries regarding to the users' social interaction, a case offers them the option of reaction and involvement with other users. The city of Nicosia has several adapting systems for several mobile groups. By focusing on the study area, one can easily distinguish the conflict, created by the "resistance" (carried out by these systems), between permanent and temporary situations. The aim is to redefine the existing network as a receiving network, focusing on the resistance inherent in the friction between different situations.

Resistance and friction, as described by Richard Sennett, are the inhibitors of social interactions' control by independent forces and their existence in space poses opportunities for freedom in expression and coexistence of diversities. Each space is defined by different levels of homogeneity/heterogeneity of users, private/public access, private/public use, permanence/impermanence of users. All these characteristics shall be reviewed by their transformation into cases. Each space can then be converted into a receptor according to its typology. For example, a house with a garden can accept a short time accommodation space, on it or next to it, for one night or more, and that may interest the homeless, the traveler or the immigrant. The same can happen in the case of a multi-housing building, by the redesign of its facade as a living space, or the roof or yard as public space, by reviewing its access. Also a simple road can be converted to accept direction, bypass or diversion changes, in order to absorb the public flows of the urban environment, etc. Let's talk about a case network on the existing city that accepts the temporary as part of the urban environment and opens up the potential for transaction with the permanent. A frame which allows the possibility of diversities coexistence. A case network that receives friction situations transforming them into productive relationships, exchanges and experience.

