
Zippering Across the Edge

ATHANASIA AGAPIOU

University of Cyprus

GEORGE CHARALAMBOUS

University of Cyprus

CHRISTINA PALOCHI

University of Cyprus

NICOLE ANDREOU

University of Cyprus

Famagusta (Greek: Αμμόχωστος = Ammóchōstos) is a city on the east coast of Cyprus. It is located east of Nicosia, and possesses the deepest harbor of the island. During the second phase of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus on 14 August 1974 the Mesaoria plain was overrun by Turkish tanks and Famagusta was bombed by Turkish aircraft. In 2 days the Turkish Army occupied the city, which had been completely evacuated by its Greek Cypriot population. Unlike other parts of the TRNC-controlled areas of Cyprus, the Varosha section of Famagusta was fenced off by the Turkish army immediately after being captured and still remains in that state today. The Greek Cypriots who had fled from Varosha were not allowed to return, and journalists are banned. It has been frozen in time with, today, houses, department stores and hotels empty and isolated, also known as a "ghost town". In an October 2010 report titled Saving Our Vanishing Heritage, Global Heritage Fund listed Famagusta, a "maritime ancient city of crusader kings", among the 12 sites most "On the Verge" of irreparable loss and destruction, citing insufficient management and development pressures.

The enclavation of Famagusta cut off the intensity of the seafront, resulting its isolation and its conversion into a single enclave, with minimum access. The proposal focuses on the re-limitation of the depth of beach access so as to bring out gradually the activation and connection to the urban fabric of the city.

The implemented strategy was achieved by vertical conductors connecting the city, which will act as a means of zippering conurbation with the circuit of the seafront. Through the ducts, it will be encouraged the charge transfer from the existing tissue to the limit of the coastline, managing parallelly the vertical decomposition of the enclaves.

Thus, it is proposed the creation of nodes which will be anchored to the limit of the coastline resulting in a possible change for increasing the depth of accessibility. The nodes will operate as tension condensers, strategically placed, to generate the polarity both among themselves and with the current situation. The type of the proposed administration comes to lock as a micro-circuit in the united larger circuit of the seafront, creating new joints, both in local and trans-local level. The joints are empowered by a new kind of floating administration, which will have the flexibility to charge temporarily or permanently the hubs.

The flexibility of movements creates new connections, detours and shortcuts in the city, always in relation to the frequency and activation issues. Having as design tools the programming division, the activation and management of new networks, the continuation of the ground within and outside the boundary of coastline, the hybridized connection with nature, the proposal aims to find continuities at the discontinuities of the city and to encourage new kinds of coexistences.

Famagusta (Greek: Αμμόκιστος - Ammókhistos) is a city on the east coast of Cyprus. It is located east of Nicosia, and possesses the deepest harbor of the island. During the second phase of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus on 14 August 1974 the Mesaoria plain was overrun by Turkish tanks and Famagusta was bombed by Turkish aircraft. In 27 days the Turkish Army occupied the city, which had been completely evacuated by its Greek Cypriot population. Unlike other parts of the UNOC controlled area of Cyprus, the Varosha section of Famagusta was fenced off by the Turkish army immediately after being captured and still remains in that state today. The Greek Cypriots who had fled from Varosha were not allowed to return, and journalists are banned. It has been known in times with hidden houses, department stores and banks empty and isolated, also known as a "ghost town". The population of the city before 1974 was approximately 60,000. The majority (24,500) was Greek Cypriots, apart with 8,500 Turkish Cypriots and 4,000 from other ethnic groups. Today the population is 30,000, most either Turkish Cypriots or Turkish immigrants, with very few from other ethnic groups. In an October 2010 report titled "Saving Our Vanishing Heritage, Global Heritage Fund listed Famagusta, a "maritime walled city of cross-cultural legacy", among the 12 sites most "On the Verge" of irreparable loss and destruction, citing insufficient management and development pressures.



The enclosure of Famagusta cut off the intensity of the seafloor, resulting its isolation and its conversion into a single enclave, with minimum access. The proposal focuses on the re-limitation of the depth of beach access so as to bring out gradually the activation and connection to the urban fabric of the city. The implemented strategy was achieved by vertical conductors connecting the city, which will act as a means of slapping conurbation with the circuit of the seafloor. Through the ducts, it will be encouraged the charge transfer from the existing tissue to the limit of the coastline, managing parallelly the vertical decomposition of the enclaves. Thus, it is proposed the creation of nodes which will be anchored to the limit of the coastline resulting in a possible change for increasing the depth of accessibility. The nodes will operate as tension condensers, strategically placed, to generate the polarity both among themselves and with the current situation. The type of the proposed administration comes to lock as a micro-circuit in the united larger circuit of the seafloor, creating new joints, both in local and translocal level. The joints are empowered by a new kind of floating administration, which will have the flexibility to change temporary or permanently the hubs. The flexibility of movements creates new connections, detours and shortcuts in the city, always in relation to the frequency and activation issues. Having as design tools the programming division, the activation and management of new networks, the contribution of the ground within and outside the boundary of coastline, the hybridized connection with nature, the proposal aims to find continuities at the discontinuities of the city and to encourage new kinds of coexistences.

