

TRADITION VERSUS REPRESENTATION

In all Mediterranean countries, the architectural heritage stems from the historical influences, that inter-cross the diversity between eastern and western culture and the dichotomy between eastern and western perception.

The term “post-traditional” architecture in Greece, refers to several phases of the architectural representation in the span of the last two hundred years. It refers to a different period for each Greek region, according to the moment that each micro-region was linked to the contemporary Greek state. Traditional architecture refers to the particular architecture that each place inherited from the period before the constitution of the contemporary Greek state.

Accordingly, there are four phases recorded for the representation of the Greek post-traditional architecture and these are classified in respect to the various architectural elements. In this presentation, the distinction of these four phases is based on the differentiation of the architectural element of roof pattern, between islands in the eastern Aegean sea.

- 1. Traditional: Plain roof pattern**
- 2. Search of identity: Four pitched roof pattern**
- 3. Neoclassical: Two pitched roof pattern**
- 4. Hybridity: Eclecticism**

The above phenomena are perceived in the architectural context of three island of the eastern Aegean sea (Tylos, Symi and Chalki), that even though there are in proximity, they gave accent to a diverse architectural representation.

1. Introduction

The architectural heritage, in order to be "authentic", diverse and to be delivered to future generations, needs to have a concrete beginning, duration and end. The architectural heritage includes structures of the past with a particular identity, which corresponds to the historical period that it was created by dominant cognitive perception (eastern and western dichotomy) and which we owe to protect and to transmit to the next generations

The recent information technology and communication systems re-define the cognitive dichotomies between east and west, adding the cognitive diversity that is created between the users of the recent communications systems and the holders of the unique cultural particularities (traditional architecture). The first are seeking an exit from the isolation to which the modern technology leads them, and the second use the domestic architecture as an endogenous potential for tourism development. The consequences of this reality leads to the re-structuring of a neo-traditional architecture, using representations of the past and by reviving the particularity of the architectural heritage of each place. Is this a new architectural era in process or that is in fact a deliberate "mise en scene", a process of simulacrum?

2. Traditional architecture, Neoclassicism and Search of identity in the eastern Aegean sea.

In the eastern Aegean, the Byzantine era was succeeded by Latin occupation (Genoan or Venetian) and a century after the fall of Konstantinople, the area was progressively conquered by the Ottomans up to the beginning of the 20th century. In 1912, during of the Italian-Turkish war, the Italian army occupied the eastern islands of the Aegean sea. In 1923, by the Treaty of Lausanne, the islands were under Italian rule, while the population acquired a special citizenship, "Cittadanza Egea", until 1943, when Germany followed by England undertook the

administration of these islands. In 1947, with the end of Second World War, they were linked to Greece.

In general, the prosperity of the islands of the eastern Aegean was degraded by the discovery of steam and the turn of shipping towards overseas itineraries. At the same time under the Italian Rule communication with the Asia minor coasts were abandoned.

Although the late historical influences are similar in the area, it is to note the diversity of the architectural heritage between islands in proximity (fig. 1), documenting the different phases of the post-traditional architecture, according to the special timing of individual island development.

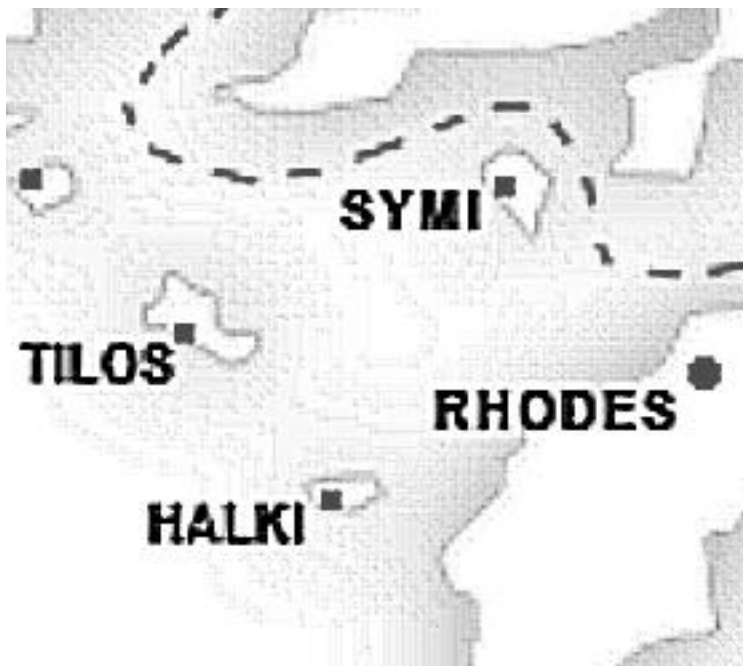


FIG.1: Tilos, Halki, Symi, islands in proximity to Rhodes.

3. Authenticityⁱ in the island of Tylos.

The island of Tylos was occupied by the Latin state of the Knights of Rhodes during the 11th century. In 1522, it fell under Ottoman rule which granted autonomy in the administration and other privileges in the Greek population. In the beginning of the 20th century, the island came under Italian control, until the end of the Second World War.

Tylos followed similar historical paths with the other islands of Dodekanissos. In particular, most inhabitants immigrated to France after the Ottoman domination and to America and Australia after the Italian rule.

Evolution of population

1821	2.000
1912	1.300
1947	1.085
1971	349
2001	560

Source: Annals of N.S.S.G.

Tylos island had always been settled in two locations, since the 15th century, the current Micro and Megalo Chorio. In the middle of 20th century, a new settlement developed on the eastern coast (the current harbor).

3.1. Traditional: Plain roof pattern.

Micro Chorio (fig. 2), was called Iliado under the Ottoman domination, likely because of the production of oil. Devastated today, it is offered for recording authentic traditional architectural elements. The location of Micro village was settled in the 15th century, the period of the sovereignty of Knights in the region. The layout of the village is amphitheatrical providing good view for all residences. The housing design presents an advanced typology organized by a certain building ruleⁱⁱ, apparently the one that was evolved in the area since the Byzantine and post Byzantine era and until the introduction of neoclassicism by the middle of 19th century. Among the architectural elements that distinct the traditional architecture of Tylos, the plain roof pattern, is recorded in Micro Chorio in its original form. In 1946, Micro Chorio was studied by the well known in Greece ethnologist G. Megasⁱⁱⁱ, who described the traditional construction rules and architectural characteristics (fig.3). The same architectural element of plain roof pattern is applied in Tylos, nowadays, proving an authentic evolutionary process.



FIG.2: Micro Chorio settlement in Tylos island.

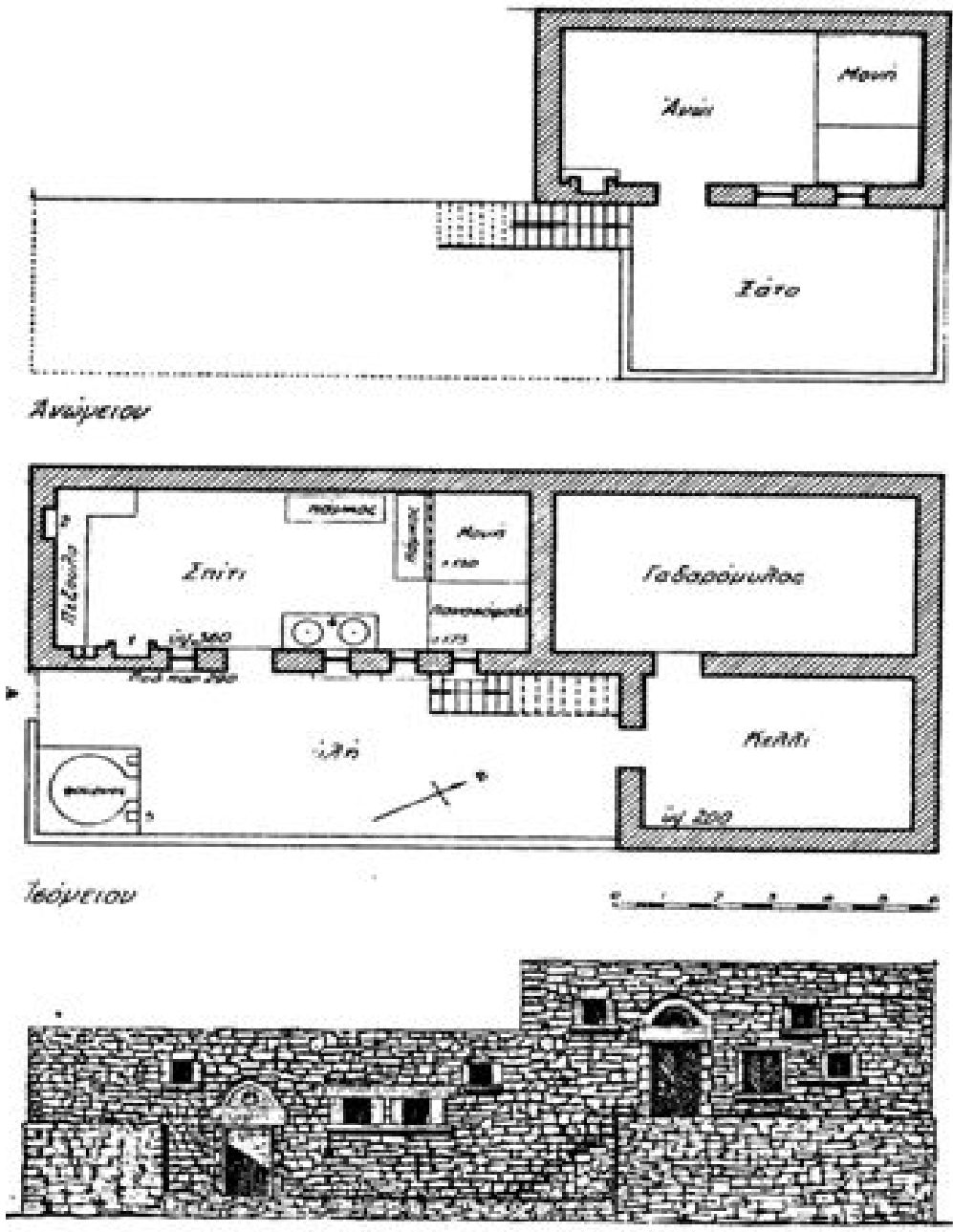


FIG. 3: Authentic architecture of Micro Chorio, recorded by G. Megas, 1945.

4. Neoclassical architecture in Symi island.

Symi island enjoyed privileges^{iv} under ottoman rule up to 1866, when on the occasion of the Cretan revolution this custom was refused. Under this autonomy privilege in 1832 there was a provisional Greek administration and Symi was declared the capital of Dodecanisos enjoying prosperity until the end of the 19th century.

Evolution of Symi population

1821	6.250
1850	8.000
1912	22.450
1961	3.126
1971	2.344
2001	3.015

Source: Annals of N.S.S.G.

Symi is composed by 4 settlements, Emporio, Gyalo, Pedi and Panormo. The three first settlements have spread over the years and compose today a large settlement. There are stretched out in 6 hills, which are separated from three gulfs, from which the central one constitutes Emporio (fig.4). Initially, the settlements were developed naturally at both sides of the harbor and in the backbone of the hill that dominates. In the plain coastal level, there was created the commercial center and the square. From this point begins “Kali strata” road, that connects the upper village with the harbor, along which there are articulated mansions. Today, the sky line as seen from the harbor -once the natural top of the hills that framed windmills- is occupied by recently constructed rooftops. The expansion of the building zone and the distribution of plots is aligned today systematically, but on an observer’s eye, it gives the impression of natural distributions.



FIG. 4: Emporio settlement in Symi island.



FIG. 5: Two pitched symmetry.

Symi's dominating architectural element is the two-pitched symmetry of buildings (fig. 5). There are fewer examples of plain roofs, dating from previous architectural periods (mansion of Chatjiagapitos) that are lost between the neoclassical representation. An older photograph of Symi, before the Second World War, shows that there were still many houses with plain roofs that were replaced with the two-pitched ones.

4.2. Hybridity^v: One pitch roof pattern.

Even in the protected neoclassical Symi the dynamics of the modern period impose interpretations that are classified under the term hybridity. A repeated phenomenon is the copying of the half-symmetry of a neoclassical facade on a new house with one pitched roof.

5. The search of identity in Chalki island

The island of Chalki is one of the smaller islands of Dodecanissos, influenced by Rhodes island which is in proximity. From the 11th century, it was accorded to the state of the Knights of Rhodes. During the 14th century, the island of Chalki was granted to the family Assanti from Ischia. In 1522, Chalki and the neighboring islands were occupied by the Ottomans. By the 19th century, Chalki was prosperous with a developed trade of sponges. Housing was organized in two settlements, Chorio, which was abandoned by the middle of the 20th century, and Imporio that is the unique current settlement and harbor of the island. In 1908, the political events in Turkey caused Chalki to lose its prosperity and its population immigrated to America. In 1912, Chalki was occupied by the Italians which remained in power -under the Treaty of London of 1915- imposing hard governing. Later on, with the rise of Mussolini -in the decade of 1930- the rest of the Greek population was forced to immigrate. By the end of the Second World

War, Chalki was finally linked to Greece. During the last decades, the descendants of Chalki's Greek population abroad, offer economic help to the island and return for their summer vacation.

Evolution of Chalki population

1821	1200
1850	1500
1912	3215
1922	1300
1941	754
1995	250
2001	312

Source: Annals of N.S.S.G.

The slow growth of Chalki and her progressive abandonment is crystallized in the various phases of building structures.

The 19th century is represented on the settlement of Imporio, by an orthogonal housing plan with a four pitched roof, a typology applied mostly in the continental Greece at the same period.

Architectural characteristics of previous periods, such as one ground floor houses with plain roofs, can be found in the today devastated village of Chorio. These elements survived up to the middle of the 20th century.

Minimal examples of neoclassicism exist from the period of the Italian possession, with the Town Hall as a major representation.

5.1. Phase I: Plain roof pattern

The first phase, which survived up to the modern period is imprinted in the settlement of Chorio, by the hill foot of the Latin castle. Most houses of Chorio have been built on ancient stones and with minimal dimensions^{vi}, usually as one room, named "kellia". They provided elementary

cover to the needs of an agricultural family. They have a rectangular ground plan, a plain roof and in the center of the room a central pillar called "messias", where the "korfaria" of the plain roof - made of seaweed, earth and "patellia"- are supported .

5.2. Phase II: Four pitched roof pattern

By the 19th century, when there was a development of the fishery trade and of the sponges, the population started to settle by the harbor of the island and to build four pitched roof houses. Initially they constructed a "domed" room at length of the sea side, which constituted of the kitchen and later on they added a second floor, that constituted of a central corridor and 3-4 rooms.

The built-up structure of Imporio maintains the original formulation, in which pitched roofs dominate along the marine forehead. On the two dimensional level the street pattern is natural, because the initial building of "the dome" was built in coastal caves (fig. 6).



FIG. 6: Imporio settlement in Chalki island with four pitched roofs.



FIG. 7: Eclecticism of roof pattern

5.3. Phase III: Two pitched roof, neoclassical pattern

Neoclassical architecture of the period in between World Wars, provides a three fold organization of the plan with a two pitched symmetrical roof. The dominating Town Hall is the most important representation.

5.4.Phase IV: Hybridity

In the south-eastern side of the harbor, an area of tourist-use residences has developed. An intercross of the architectural elements from the previous phases and new elements, such as verandas, platforms and intense colors was imported (fig.7). This area is situated next to the dock, which has been extended and occupied by taverns and "small" hotels.

The sky line is maintained intact in the natural form of hills, which are dominated by three renovated windmills.

6. Conclusion

Architectural heritage and all the relevant notions of traditional, local and rural architecture are important in the reconstruction of space. Particularly, the notion of local identity, which emerges through the variety of historical paths of each region, constitutes today a prospect for local development. Local development is based on the individuality of local identity, inviting the modern flows towards the places, that offer and advertise the local individuality.

Modern representations, re-constructions and new-traditional projections and typologies -that are established by the market dynamics- do not constitute architectural heritage. Modern

representations do not have concrete beginning, duration and end and consequently do not constitute architectural heritage. Though they will be transferred to the next generations and probably they will add to the future identity of places.

Authenticity in architecture, which is guaranteed by the historical architectural heritage, imports the evolutionary theory^{vii} in the built environment, as well as the process of the creation of the character of each place. The notions become complex with the various perception of users^{viii} and the interaction of different identities ((Lynch 1960, Norberg-Schulz 1980) in different times and with situations that become perceptible or are interpreted^{ix} with a contradictory way (Derrida, Deleuze, Quatarri, Hanerbas).

In the Hellenic space and in the wider Mediterranean space, the intercresses between populations and cultures were condensed by the different perception between east and west for centuries, and they were imprinted in the built environment, which after countless intercresses, evolved into different architectural types, which differentiate even settlements in proximity.

The last two centuries, during the reconstruction of the Greek state, the evolution of local architecture followed different paths according to the individual events that characterized each place. The element of roof pattern characterizes this process:

- Traditional: Plain roof pattern.

In Tylos island the authentic plain roof pattern since antiquity is sustain during all the phases and attitudes of the recent era.

- Neoclassical: Two pitched roof pattern.

In Symi island, the neoclassical two pitched pattern was implemented in all the phases of the post-traditional development.

- Search of identity: Four pitched roof pattern.

In Chalki island, although there are examples of the traditional plain pattern and the two-pitched neoclassical one, the dominant architectural element is the four pitched roof. This pattern was applied all over Greece by the time that the neoclassical pattern was questioned, meaning the period between the two wars. The search for the continuity of Greek identity in the build environment proposed four pitched patterns.

- Hybridity: Eclecticism.

In all islands, even though the legislative building framework protect the dominant roof pattern, recent (re)constructions intercross diverse architectural elements.

The above surveyed islands were for decades abandoned, until tourism discovered their originality. For these islands, the main problem for the tourism oriented architecture, becomes the temporality of this “mise en scene” during the summer months. An equilibrium is desirable between authentic space and every day occupation, for the permanent population.

Greek building codes provide elements for the “authentication” of each settlement, but their interpretation and implementation becomes a difficult task. In most of the cases the result is an architecture which has the form or appearance of the dominant phase, but does not have any organic relation with the every day life.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

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