

Transitional housing in Athens for young adults in a time of crisis and unemployment

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Housing policies and the nature of housing markets are important in providing opportunities for or imposing constraints on the settlement of all strata of society. It is important to combine these housing policies with other goals designed to encourage a mix of households in new housing areas by providing a variety of tenures and ensuring that housing costs would not exceed one-quarter of a household's disposable income. But what if this household is made up of young individuals in the age group 18-25, which in the case of countries such as Greece, deep in an economic recession, this group of people are facing an unemployment rate of 51.8% according to the latest EuroStat figures? Young people in this age group need to be especially mobile to secure work where this is available and in many cases this is not close to home. Many of these people as they move to new cities are facing spatial segregation, which is closely linked to social and economic distance from appropriate housing venues. In the case of these young people mutual support for safety, professional training or retraining networking is very important. As examples of informal collectives are beginning to appear the question of the spatial and physical implications of housing for mobile, almost nomadic, people in this age that addresses the concerns raised above is becoming an interesting challenge for architects and urban planners tasked with designing this type of housing stock. The methodological approach suggested to become better informed as to the particular circumstances facing this group of people is twofold and is concerned with the socioeconomic profiling of the potential users and the spatial organization of habitation. The first will be addressed through a series of questionnaires disseminated in areas that are already facing an influx of young people searching employment and housing to distil the demographic characteristics of these potential users. The second is the examination of appropriate precedents as a primer

for design, which will then undergo a diagnostic investigation of spatial and programmatic analysis. The synthesis of these two folds will then be presented in the form of schematic proposals of spatial organizations and taxonomies that allow for the opportunistic appropriation and development of leftover and underutilized sites in the city.