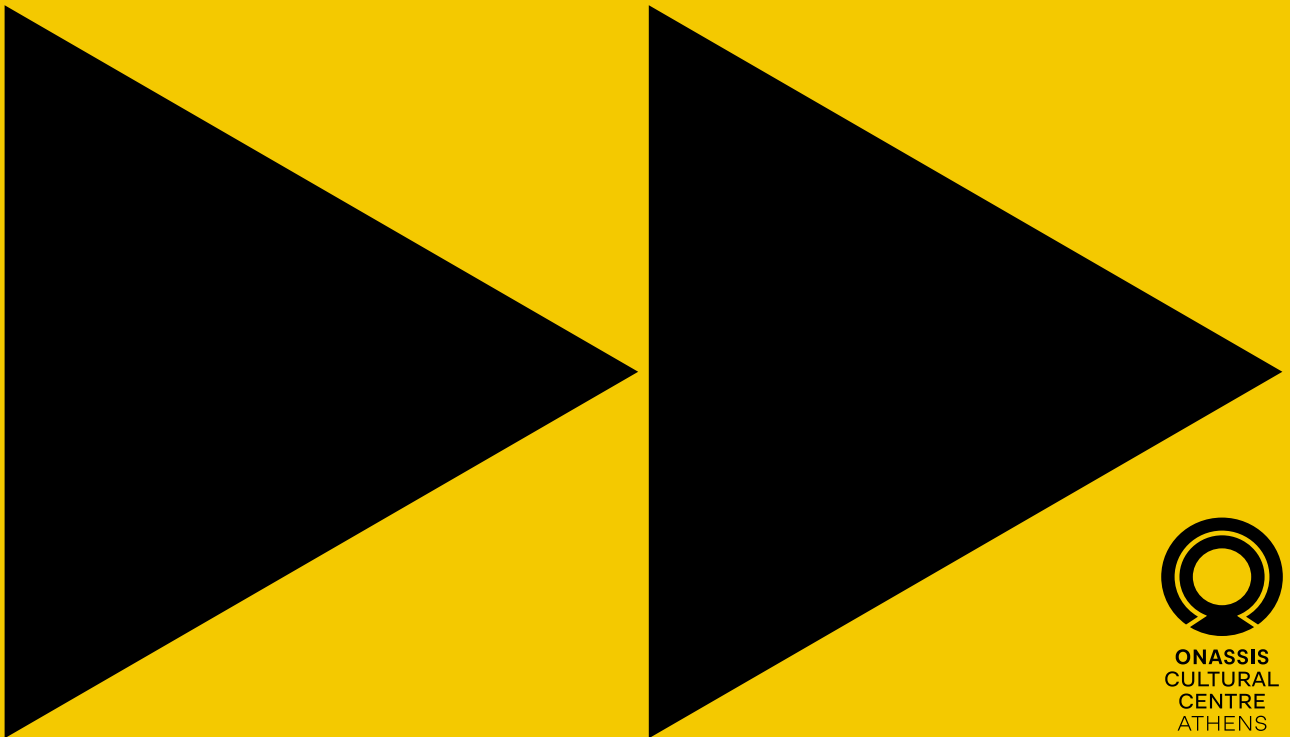


# TOMO▶▶OWS

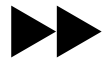
Urban fictions  
for possible futures

Edited by  
**Daphne Dragona & Panos Dragonas**





AREA Architecture Research Athens, Victoria: Way in /Way out, 2017.



**Victoria: Way In / Way Out:  
The Shelter, the Embassy and  
the Transparent State**

2017

**AREA – Architecture  
Research Athens**



In the summer of 2015, refugees from the Middle East found temporary shelter at Victoria Square, on their journey to Western Europe. Since then, Victoria, an urban space of bourgeois past and imperial name, has become a nexus of the refugee crisis, with an extended solidarity network providing shelter and guidance.

*Victoria: Way In / Way Out* imagines the space of Victoria Square as a paradigm for the future of the Mediterranean city. Two parallel urban entities coexist: the 'Shelter' and the 'Transparent State.' The first emerges within the concrete frames of former *polykatoikies*, i.e. apartment blocks, that now function as small, live-in 'factories,' where a diverse population of urban dwellers engages in the low-tech production and exchange of knowledge, products and services of a post-capitalist society. As an ever-changing, horizontal city perpetually linked to the present, the 'Shelter' is intersected by the 'Transparent State': a formal and invariable network of radically privatized infrastructures and public spaces, with restricted access and limited rights, where constant surveillance guarantees safety and conformity to the past.

Victoria Square itself has been transformed into a new Crystal Palace, or 'Embassy,' negotiating between the 'Shelter' and the 'Transparent State.' Mobility and the transitory nature of human occupation are everywhere on display, mediated by control points, waiting rooms and prepared experiences, whereby individuals may or may not be granted further access.

Project team:  
**Styliani Daouti,**  
**Giorgos Mitroulias,**  
**Michaeljohn Raftopoulos with**  
**Katerina Vassiliou**



Opposite page: The Embassy offers a singular opportunity for the enjoyment of once-popular 'free time,' before entering the 'productive time' of the Transparent State during the processing of entry applications.

Current page

Top: A series of imaginative experiences entertain the wait at the Embassy, transforming the square into an adult playground, where ever-human desires serve the interests of the Transparent State through the production of docile bodies.

Bottom: In order to exit the space of the Shelter and enter into the Transparent State, interested parties must pass through the Embassy's numerous evaluations, check points and control rooms before they are accepted, a process of undefined duration.

Installation details. Photos by AREA.





Opposite page:  
In the Factory of Useless Objects tenants spend their time both archiving and transforming the unused detritus of past objects. Indifferent to the use-value of objects, the Factory is interested only in the ideas that objects provoke, and their success is determined by their theoretical value through discussions.

Installation details. Photos by Katerina Vassiliou.

Current page:  
Within the Shelter, the gap in health care is met by Heroic Medicine clusters. Therapies are based on the informal, shared knowledge of the community proposing 'alternative' medical practices such as a vitamin and herb bar, aromatherapy and Chinese medicine in the Sanguine cluster.

Installation detail. Photo by AREA.



Opposite page:

In the School of Amateurs, a continuously renewed community of residents transmits idiosyncratic knowledge on a variety of productive skills with the goal that each participant will acquire multiple forms of competence. At this time, for example, one can learn knitting in one of the circular constructions made of ad hoc materials.

Current page

Top: Since all that derives from the humanities, as well as religion, have been expelled from the Transparent State, members are invited to the Symposium shelter to partake in the good things in life, or spiritual nourishment as a form of *joie de vivre*. At the Sacred Bar, individuals of all backgrounds congregate on a regular basis to determine the meaning of life.

Bottom: Different activities of the Symposium shelter act as vehicles that unleash the full creative and intellectual potential of each individual. Visitors to the Loos Lounge share a narghile pipe and contemplate the claim that all that is needed for a space to become a dwelling is five rugs: one for the floor, and one for each wall.

Installation details. Photos by AREA.





[tomorrows.sgt.gr](http://tomorrows.sgt.gr)

The future never felt closer than it does today. A series of environmental, technological and social shifts are affecting today's world and the human's role within it. Continuous urbanization, the impact of the anthropogenic activity on the natural environment, the increasing use of algorithmic systems in all sectors of life, and the growing asymmetries of power among territories and populations, are all central issues at stake. *How possible is it to address the future and how intelligible are the changes already taking place? Which imaginaries and counter-fictions can influence what is yet to come?*

This catalogue is published on the occasion of the exhibition "Tomorrows: Urban Fictions for Possible Futures" organized by Onassis Cultural Centre at the Diplareios School Athens (May 16 – July 16, 2017). The exhibition hosted works by artists, architects and designers that tell stories about how the future might unfold. Their narratives refer to the emergence of post-natural environments, the appearance of new types of shells and co-habitats, the sovereignty of networks and infrastructures, the rise of a new algorithmic society and the challenges of a new condition beyond the primacy of the human. Offering a contextualization, presentation and documentation of the exhibition, this catalogue seeks to spotlight how future can be used as a tool to critically understand present itself.