

ReStart to Rest Art

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METADATA

Title: ReStart _ Synthesis with the pre-existing

Other Titles: Intervention, Reuse, Regeneration, Addition, Repurposing

Language: Greek

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ISBN: 978-618-228-027-0

Subject: ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Keywords: Architectural design / Architectural heritage / Heritage management / Historic environment / Monuments

Bibliographic Reference: Mantziou, L., & Chatzi Rodopoulou, D. (2023). ReStart _ Synthesis with the pre-existing [Undergraduate textbook]. Kallipos, Open Academic Editions. <http://dx.doi.org/10.57713/kallipos-259>

Abstract

Is Architecture a vulnerable practice, anchored in the specific place and time of its birth? Are decay, change, abuse, and mutation inevitable conditions that wear architecture down? Why do we find the remnants of an old structure attractive? What is compatible with the existing fabric? On what terms can abandoned architectural structures be regenerated without sacrificing their values and their tangible and intangible dimensions? What is the impact of an intervention on the existing site and its wider context? These key questions dominate the contemporary discourse on the conservation and management of the building stock. This book addresses the issue of ReStart, i.e., restarting the life of existing architectural sites. Through the analysis of a set of 100 cases, it traces and highlights RestArt,

i.e., the remaining timeless value of art, in each of the structures studied. The book's three-part structure explores the issue of the "ReStart to RestArt" succession, through the lens of theory, methodology, and applications. Firstly, it acknowledges that the issues of architectural conservation and intervention are social constructs and, therefore, dynamic, influenced by social developments. It then outlines a methodology that considers research and understanding of the characteristics of the existing built environment as a necessary condition for its redesign and reappropriation. Finally, through the presentation of numerous case studies of transformed structures, it reveals that the process of redesign knows no spatial boundaries, while it pertains to every scale, use, and construction.

