



Workshop in Cyprus in September 2016
Urban corridors as Interiorities
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Cyprus, the divided island, is split into the north- or Turkish-part and the south- or Greek-part. In between there is the so-called Buffer-Zone which belongs to the UN. Nicosia is the last divided capital city in the world. To reach from one side to another, everybody has to walk or drive through the Corridors of the Buffer-Zone. These Zones are sparse, dreary and grey.

As an introduction to the place the group made an analysis of the corridor, which is located the Ledra/Lokmaci-corridor. First of all, the word "corridor" should be defined: A corridor is a path from one point to another, which is limited through walls. After that the group was divided into four smaller groups which were analyzing SPACE, CIRCULATION, QUALITIES and SOCIAL aspects of the corridor.

The SPACE of the corridor is one volume with various sequences throughout: Each parts of the sequences have different characteristics of their own. Furthermore, there is a different CIRCULATION between the Greek side and the Turkish. On the Greek side, there is a large monument in the middle of the access path. This confuses the users of the space when trying to approach the control window. After the window many people tried to walk on the right side of the trees, when you are supposed to walk on the left. Looking closer at the trees one notices that the trees are meant to be a divider, but children play around them anyway. Finally, the street-cats do as they please.

The QUALITIES of the corridor are divided into subgroups which are: material, light, sound, architecture and which all together create the atmosphere. The materials that are used, mainly on the facades are stone and plaster. Moving on to lights, they are categorized as

natural and artificial lights. The artificial light activated at night on the Turkish side are brighter than on the Greek side. By day, there are no shading devices on either side as well as no protection from the rain aside from the passport checkpoints.

In the morning the SOUNDS in this corridor are cleaning noise and birds chirping. So it is fairly quiet. Midday one can hear people talking and music coming from outside the buffer zone on either side. In the evening there are birds, people talking and music as well. The architecture in the corridor has different Greek and Turkish style and blending with venetian and modern architecture.

The next topic deals with SOCIAL aspects of Nicosia. The users of the space are both tourists and workers. Many people cross from the Greek side to the Turkish side because the shopping is cheaper. On the other hand, the people from the Turkish side cross the border to enjoy different food and a new atmosphere. Because this is a pedestrian border, people cross either by bike or by foot. The number of people crossing from both sides is about equal on both sides. When asking about opening or closing the border, most people agreed on opening it.

Because of the time passing by, the nature took over the buildings. What remains are the FOOTPRINTS of walls of previously existing buildings.

How can one improve the quality of the corridors? Is it possible to create a better place for now and in future? Should there be a memorial for the time Cyprus was divided?

After bringing together all of our analysis information the group discussed the possible concept of the design to improve this corridor for the future. It will be done so by combining the past memories and the future of Cyprus where all people come together as one community.

Assuming that the borders will be opened in the future, the group thought out a concept could possibly bring the Turkish and Greek people together. Therefore, a playground with several functions is planned to reunite the inhabitants after a long time of division. Specifically, the concept searches for common grounds between the cultures and divides them into music, crafts, food and playgrounds. For crafts there are ceramics and pottery workshops, which are typically Greek and also wicker baskets which are typical for the Turkish side. Both specialties are getting united so the visitor can learn both in one workshop. There will be language courses as well, so the inhabitants can understand each other. Furthermore, there will be outdoor activities, such as Dance or Open Air Cinema.

The design is flexible and temporary to allow changes in the future. Therefore, there will be pop-up events, such as festivals or wedding ceremonies. This design will be a prototype to be created in many places in Cyprus.

