

The role of the integrated conservation of cultural heritage for a creative, resilient and sustainable city

Rehabilitation of historical cities and preservation of their cultural heritage.

Searching for a creative approach and innovative ways of management through the concept of the creative and sustainable city.

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NAPOLI- SEPTEMBER 2012

The concept of the creative and sustainable city can generate innovative ideas that could make historical cities a better place to live, work and enjoy and introduce innovative ways for their integrated conservation and rehabilitation.

THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE CITY

The idea of “**sustainable city**” and the idea of “integrated conservation” have many common goals

Integrated conservation should act as a core component of urban sustainable development, because their parameters, goals and policies coincide to a large extent.

THE CONCEPT OF CREATIVE CITY

The “**Creative City**” is a place that always has more creative potential. It posits that conditions need to be created for people to think, plan and act with imagination in harnessing opportunities or addressing seemingly intractable urban problems.

For a creative city, infrastructure includes a highly skilled and flexible labor force; dynamic thinkers, **creators and implementers**.

Creativity is not only about having ideas, but also about the capacity to implement them.

Core concepts of the creative city are **cultural planning and cultural resources**,

Cultural resources are not only buildings, but also **symbols, activities and local products** in crafts, manufacturing and services.

Urban cultural resources include the historical, industrial and artistic **heritage** including architecture, urban landscapes or landmarks, local and indigenous **traditions** of public life, resources like language, food and cooking, leisure activities, intellectual traditions e.t.c

The creative city brings together **high quality** of built and natural places;

talented and diverse people who **bring ideas**, inspiration and passion to a place

and **new investments** ranging from the physical environment to the social networks, cultural organizations and knowledge institutions that together drive innovation

The creative city implies a **holistic, creative thinking process** that can be applied to a range of social, economic and environmental problems

The **educational system** is seen as an untapped resource in developing creative cities

Municipal policy has a significant role in city land use and development, in order to preserve the rich or mixed use nature of **creative neighborhoods**

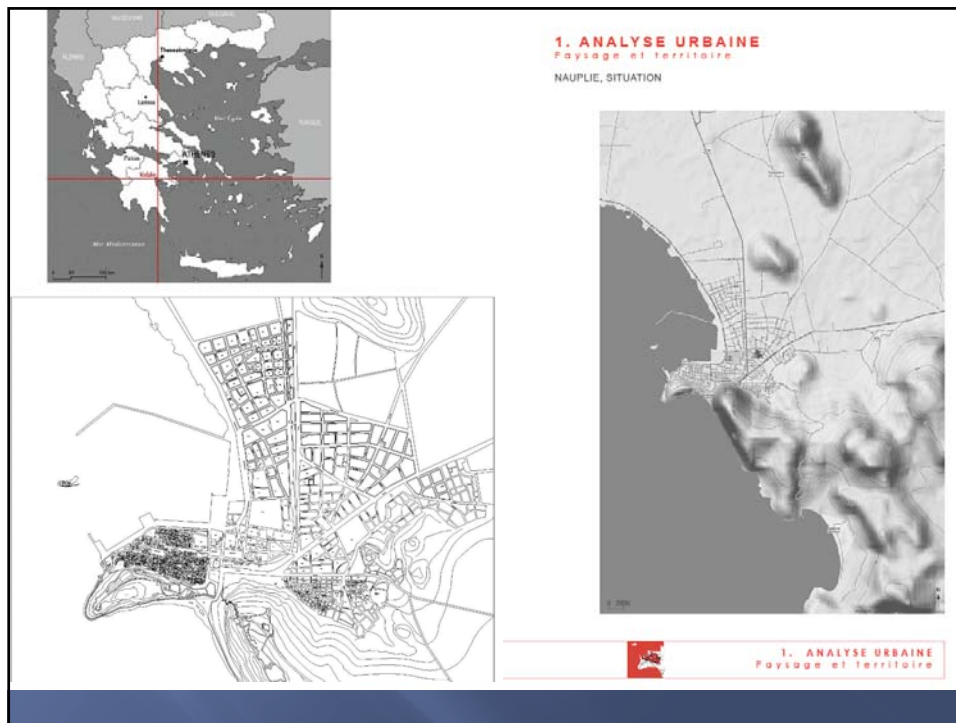
Many of the features ascribed to the creative city constitute main features of the historical city.

but also

The concept of the “**creative city**”, can fuel a creative approach and innovative ways for the integrated conservation and rehabilitation of the historical cities.

THE CASE OF THE HISTORICAL TOWN OF NAFPLIO





The historic center of Nafplion combines the image of a medieval town, characterized by the quaintness of the landscape, the free arrangement of roads, the free placing of monuments within the urban web and the unplanned open spaces, with the image of the cities of 19th and 20th century, which reintroduce the classic model of rectangular forms in the urban tissue.



The density of structures, the relation between built and open areas, as well as the important buildings – landmarks, the morphological variety of the facades, the quality, the workmanship and texture of the surfaces, the construction materials and the colours used, attribute the unique identity to the old city.



Some important buildings dating back to the Ottoman or Venetian period of the city, as well as neoclassic buildings dating after the deliberation of the city in 1828, constitute basic elements of the cultural historic context. Few modern buildings, built by famous Greek architects, contribute to the architectural heritage of the city.



High quality in the old town environment

Cultural tradition

Contemporary cultural activity

Traditional activities

Big number of public and private museums

Galleries

Theatre Studies

Annex of the University of Harvard,

Local press,
History & Culture gazettes,
Cultural clubs,
Libraries,
Art galleries

Hotels of high aesthetics,
Small-scale recreational and tourism units,
Taverns serving Greek delicacies,
Uniquely decorated bars,
Gift and fashion shops, etc.

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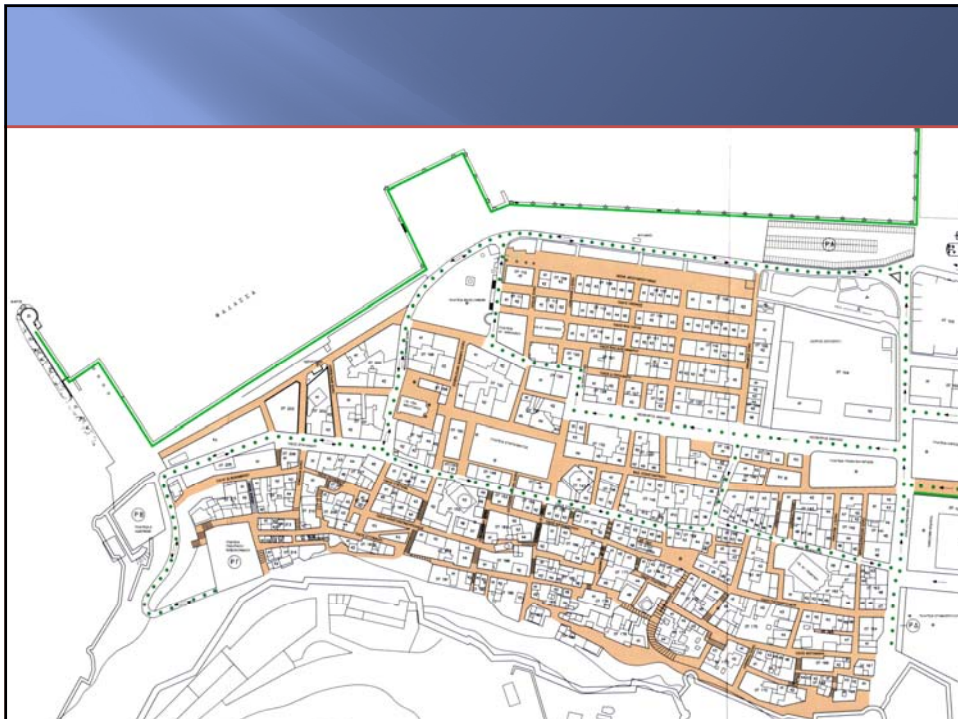
STUDIES and URBAN REGULATIONS

Research included a general diagnosis of the city's and broader area's physiognomy and problems, from the point of view of urban organization, socioeconomic structure, architectural character, technical infrastructure and natural environment;

The research concluded in a series of regulations concerning land use, building outlines, zones of development, financial and statutory incentives, urban mechanisms, the protection of the natural and built environment, the improvement of the technical, cultural and social infrastructure and the quality of life, etc.

Special decrees for the old town:

- (a) Preservation of the traditional urban web
- (b) Classification of the historical buildings and elements of the old town
- (c) Pedestrianization of numerous streets,
- (d) Determination of permissible land use,
- (e) Specification of a building regulations.
- (f) Terms and limitations governing the placement of signs and the private expansions into public space



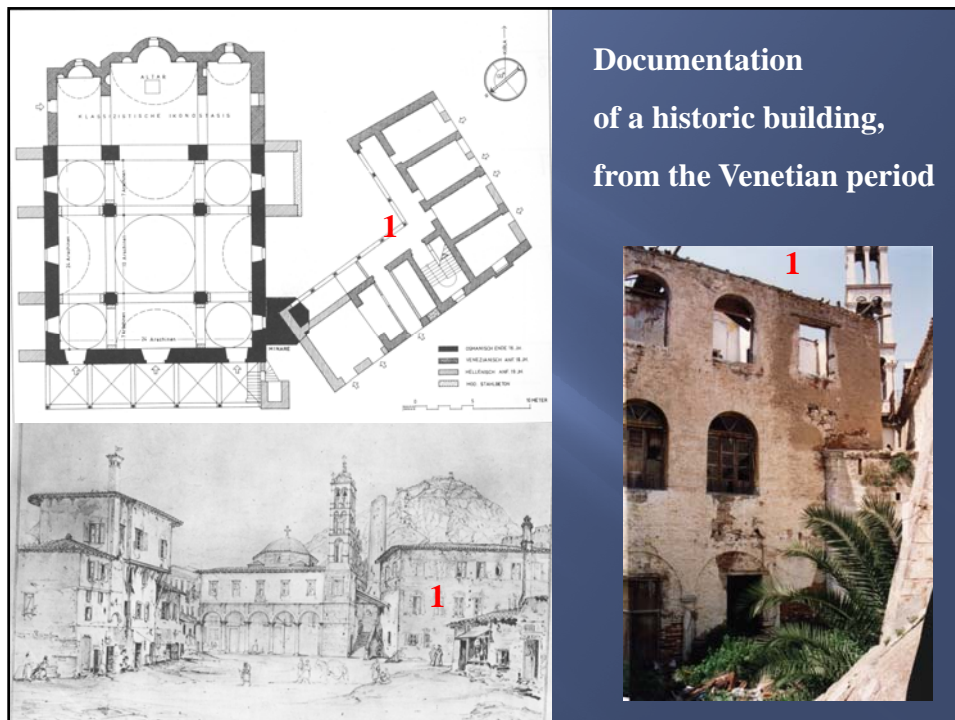
Need
to upgrade
the public space



It was also suggested to

- complete the necessary cultural and social infrastructure.
- upgrade of the form and function of the free public areas
- control of circulation and parking of cars
- reinforcement of pedestrian zones
- enhancement of the infrastructure networks
- paving and urban equipment
- rehabilitation of the facades of historic buildings.

These interventions aimed at the city's sustainable development, the improvement of the quality of life, as well as the highlighting of all the elements composing its character, its value and the quality of the historic ensemble.



Innovative actions

1990 -2000

- (a) participial procedures and scientific and informative conferences addressed to the residents of the town,
- (b) contest among the owners of classified buildings, for the best rehabilitation of the facades of their buildings.
- (c) educative seminar to the town's engineers on 'Techniques for the Conservation and Rehabilitation'.
- (d) students of Architecture created an educational game for the school goers, in order for them to become better acquainted with their town and its history.
- (e) informative conference for teachers.

Nafplio can be considered creative



But “the municipal policy has a significant role in city land use and development, in order to preserve the rich or mixed use nature of neighborhoods’

Innovative ideas and actions

2000 -2010

Creation of a **Museum of the City**; a dynamic cultural pole utilizing the new technologies.

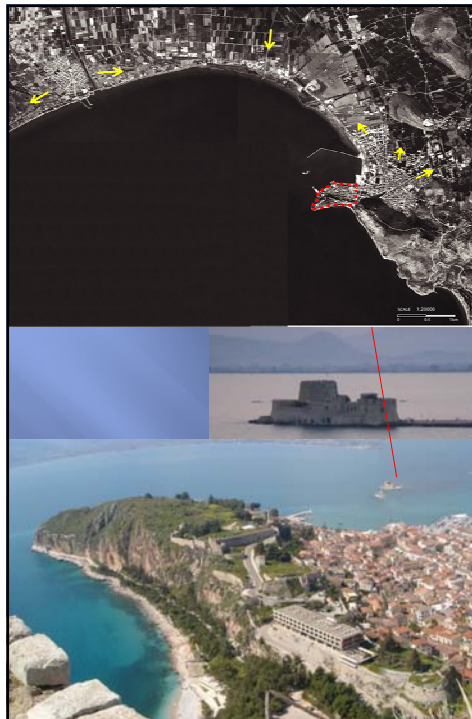
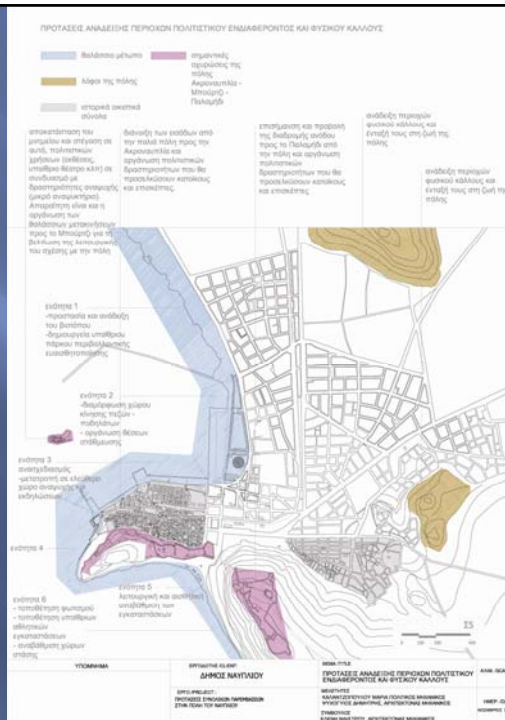
Highlighting of **cultural poles** and recreational areas **outside the old town** and promotion of all cultural features and **natural beauty of the surrounding area.**



Restoration of the town's relationship with the waterfront.

Poles of historic interest will constitute a strong cultural network through their connection to the waterfront.

Creation of a walking and public recreational area including a waterfront walk, routes inside the historic center, buildings with cultural use throughout the city and the fortifications



Highlighting of the seafront zone offering a considerable view towards the old town and its fortified hills.

Creation of a **database** to document the cultural heritage of the historical city. It will serve as an important tool to plan the **preservation and development** of the historical city,
to **increase awareness** among the general public.
to **evaluate** the quantitative and qualitative changes in the city and create **management tools**



The new generation contributes its innovative ideas

Upgrading the waterfront and creation of a linear park, running parallel to the coast.



Yiannis Baltagiannis, University of Sheffield, Dpt. of Landscape, May 2005

The new generation contributes its innovative ideas

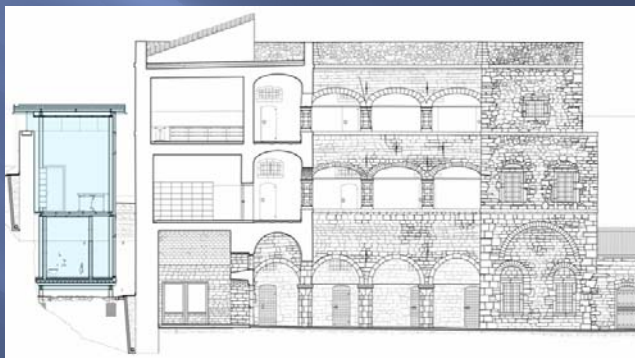
Creation of a Park for Environmental Information and Protection of the Local Ecosystem, on the town's waterfront.



Katerina Leptidou and Alexandros Psychogiannis school of Architecture NTUA 2008

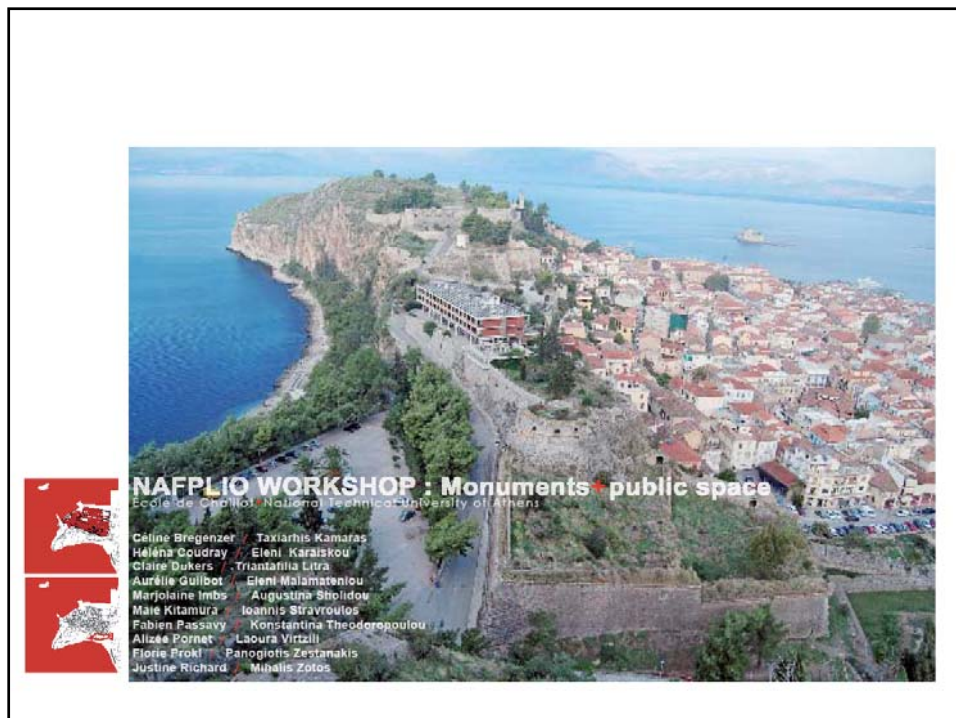
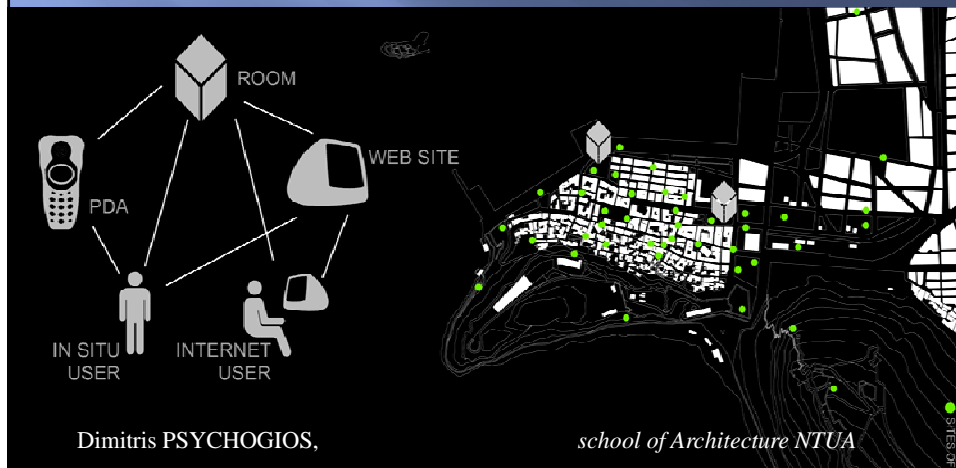
The new generation contributes its innovative ideas

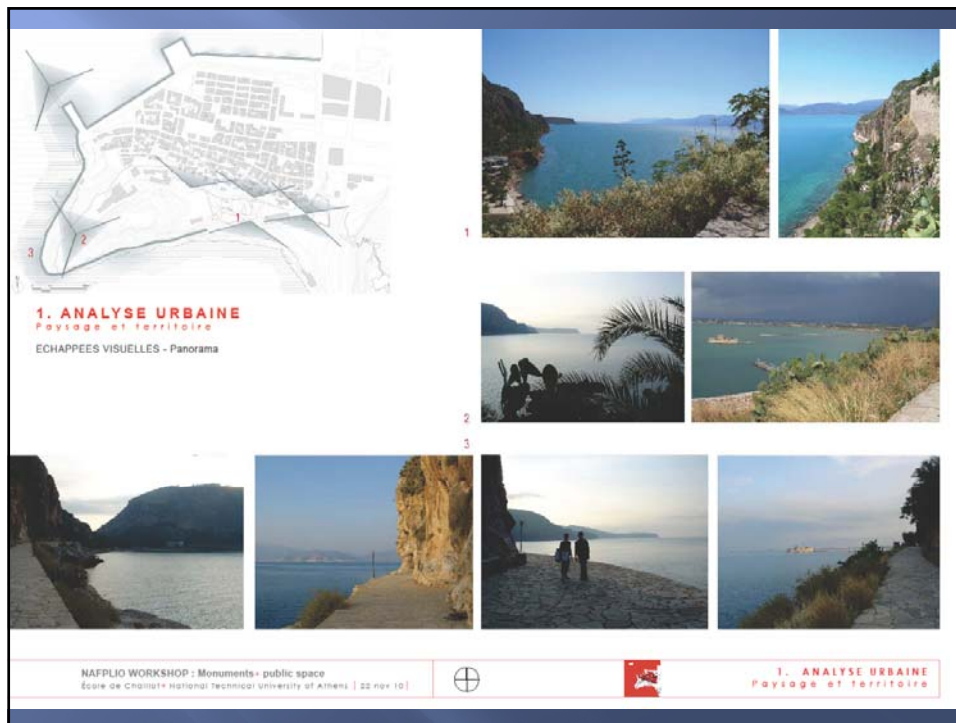
Rehabilitation and reuse of an old Ottoman religious school (medresses) to house a library connected online with historic libraries in Athens, and with the French army and Venice archives

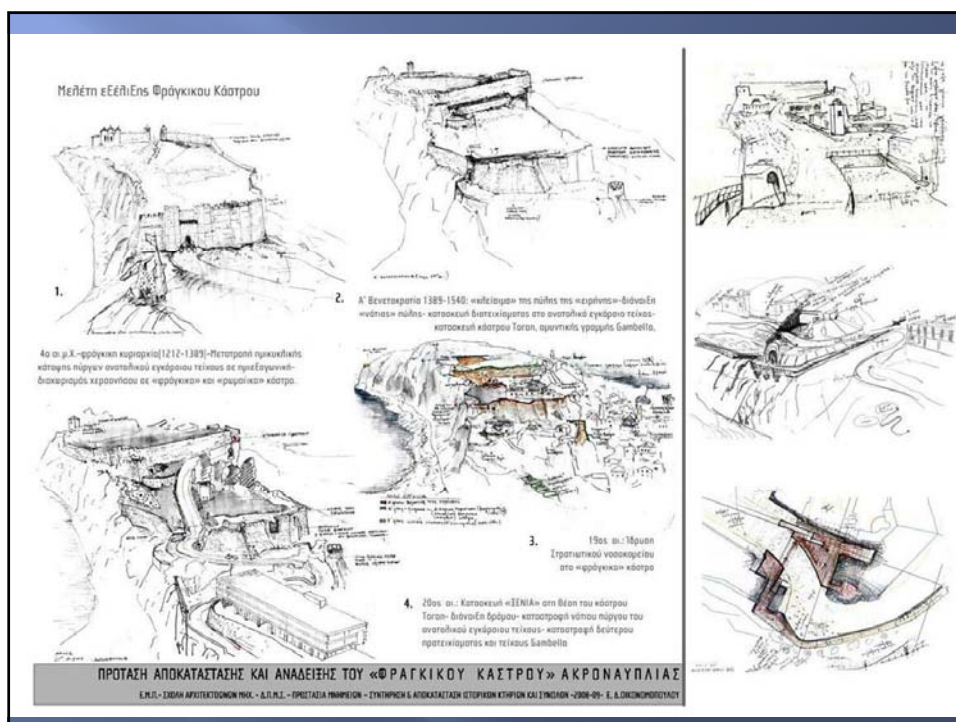
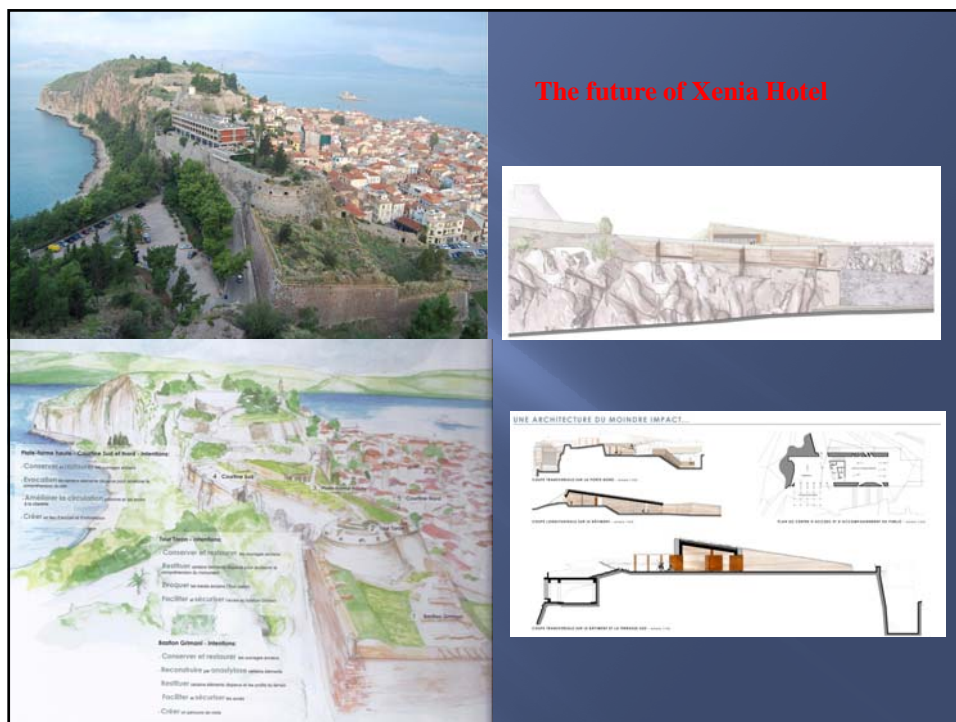


The new generation contributes its innovative ideas

Creation of a generic platform of multilayer information for the historical town:
history, culture, products and landscape.
The platform is realized with units having flexible scale able to interact with a
variety of users, located in open spaces of the city.







The historical city can attract fuel and promote the creative art of architectural and urban design, forming the heritage of the future.

At the same time, the historical city should benefit from a creative public policy that should be applied to a range of social, economic and environmental problems and the art of winning community support in order to obtain a sustainable development.

“To meet the demands of living well together in the future, we recommend that the art of city – embracing ecological growth as social, environmental, cultural and economic diversity; and governance as transparent forms of genuine, effective participation, dialogue and mutual learning, and

We call for inter-sector transversal and sensitive approaches to urban development. Such approaches should allow indeterminate common spaces for shared use in our cities.

We recommend governments to integrate the significant contributions of artwork and art-creating processes in urban development.”

Recommendations presented during the workshop “Sustainable Creative Cities: the role of the arts in globalised urban contexts” (the workshop was co – organized by the Asia – Europe Foundation and its partners)